

The Baptist Record

JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION

Thursday, April 11, 1991

Published Since 1877

"We are to be stewards over God's resources"

By Louis Moore

NASHVILLE (BP) — A complete reading of the creation accounts in Genesis should lead Christians to concern about environmental issues, said Roy T. Edgemon.

"So many Christians live in Genesis 1 where we are told to be fruitful and multiply and subdue the earth," he said. "Those are all important aspects of creation, but there is also Genesis 2."

The second chapter of Genesis makes it clear that humans, as stewards of God's creation, are to guard and care for the earth, Edgemon, director of the Baptist Sun-

day School Board's Discipleship Training Department, said.

"Mankind is not to be dominated by creation, but we are to be stewards over God's resources," he said. "Our responsibility is to till the earth and work it, then to guard it and protect it."

Edgemon said he rejects the claims by some that concern for the environment reflects either "social gospel" or "New Age" thinking. Both charges ignore the fact God created the world and authorized humans to be stewards of it, he said.

"While biblical stories of creation

point to concern for the earth, concern for the earth should also point back to the need for Christians to study the doctrine of creation and other parts of the Bible," Edgemon said.

"Our first priority as Christians is to share the Good News of Jesus Christ with nonbelievers. We are not only called to win people to Jesus Christ but also to disciple them, and this discipleship includes teaching them to love and care for God's creation," he said. "We are to guard and protect the earth for the next generation until Jesus comes."

"I have two grandchildren to whom

I must leave a heritage," he said. "I consider part of that heritage clean air and clean water. I want them to see God's creatures that I have seen, to catch fish that are not polluted, to enjoy all the beauty of God's world that my father's generation gave to me."

As an indication of how Southern Baptists are lagging on environmental issues, Edgemon cited a comment in Firmament, a Christian magazine on the environment, which said Southern Baptists are only beginning to become concerned with earth-care issues.

It is important, he said, that Southern Baptists go beyond learning about the theology of ecology and begin to take steps to help care for the environment through such means as recycling, cleaning up the water, and protecting forests.

Edgemon has worked with the Christian Life Commission in planning this year's CLC annual seminar in Fort Worth, Texas, March 25-27. Theme for that seminar is "Christians and the Environment: Finding a Biblical Balance Between Idolatry and Irresponsibility."

Moore writes for BSSB.

Consider as you sow

And on the sixth day, God ordered the earth to bring forth humanity to have dominion over each living thing To share in the blessings of the land, sea and air And the Word went forth to those far and near.

God's commands were made to sow and to reap, To work diligently, to harvest and to wisely keep The earth fertile and to nourish the need Of all God's children who must go forward and lead.

In the stewardship of the land against the time When the environment could be doomed by humanity's crime Of neglect and profit at the expense of God's creation Thus leaving the earth ravaged beyond all salvation.

We must foresee that the earth is guaranteed To protection against our own destructive greed That allows a wetland to be drained or a forest cut down To be replaced with a highway or a high rise town.

God's Word must be heeded — and learning must replace Mistaken priorities to protect the human race From the fate that has fallen on much of nature's design Careless extinction of life and land by the neglect we find.

Care must be taken by people in all the world's nations To sow the seeds of tomorrow for future generations. Seeds of stewardship sown by following God's commands Making human efforts an extension of God's hands.

Consider as you sow, you shall reap . . .



National Soil and Water Stewardship Week

April 25 - May 5

"As You Sow" is to be the theme of National Soil and Water Stewardship Week April 25-May 5, sponsored by the National Association of Conservation Districts, Washington, D.C. The art selected to support this year's theme is a reproduction of Vincent van Gogh's painting, "The Sower," above. The nineteenth-century painting

features the life-giving sun and fertile soil ready to receive seed from the sower's hand. The original is a part of a collection of the Kroller-Muller Stichting Museum in The Netherlands.

SOUTHERN BAPTIST HISTORICAL
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EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK

Guy Henderson

Time for weeping

Singing in the congregation, I noticed with sudden alarm the words, "In the cross of Christ I glory, towering over the wrecks of time." Don't ask why, but the SBC controversy came to mind.

The mother of all fragmentations seems to be taking place in our convention. We have the Southern Baptist Alliance, mostly along the Atlantic seaboard. They have already had their convention, concluding with an interpretive dance.

The Southern Baptist Fellowship will meet in May in perhaps a history-making session with Cecil Sherman declaring it to be a "group of people who did not want to leave the SBC but are being driving out." Walter Shurden, a steering committee member, said the Fellowship already functions as a new denomination for some groups but not for others. Dan Vestal has indicated the purpose is not for organizing a new denomination now, "What will happen in the future, only God knows."

Meanwhile, friends are urged to call friends and get them to attend the May Fellowship Convocation in Atlanta. Apparently it is extremely important to top the last attendance figure of 3,000. Shades of former SBC leaders rousing the faithful to attend and vote for their candidate!

Then, of course, we have the fundamental/conservative group calling

the faithful to Atlanta for the regular June convention. This convention is to be known for its repentance and prayer effort. Pity we didn't think of that ten years ago.

Morris Chapman, SBC president, has declared that "no one is being driven out, they have chosen to do this." Assuredly, they have been excluded from most committees, trustees, and most other areas of convention life, with or without the help of a paid parliamentarian.

Moreover, the Home Mission Board has given up its Wednesday night slot in order that the Spiritual Awakening Task Force can lead us in an evening of repentance and prayer. Our sins are to be catalogued in Arkansas, forwarded on to Atlanta, and hopefully lifted unto the Lord on Wednesday night. This united repenting and praying will be the catharsis, supposedly, for the convention.

Somewhere in all of this ecclesiastical myopia there appears to be some elements that could usher us toward the wrecks of time. We still believe in the priesthood of the believer, and repentance and prayer can begin today. We don't have to wait 'til June 5. Where in all of this do we repent for excluding an estimated 40 percent of SBC members from the governing process of the convention?

The writer of Ecclesiastes says

there is a time to rejoice and a time to weep. This is weeping time.

We have people in control who will not give an inch to restore broken fellowship. We have those in the broken fellowship happy to divide the household of Baptists. Withering seminaries, discouraged missionaries, and churches of discontent lie along this ego trail. Isaiah's message (chap. 1) keeps creeping in: "The multitude of your sacrifices — what are they to me? says the Lord . . . I have more than enough . . . I have no pleasure . . . stop bringing meaningless offerings . . . your incense is detestable . . . I cannot bear your evil assemblies . . . even if you offer many prayers, I will not listen."

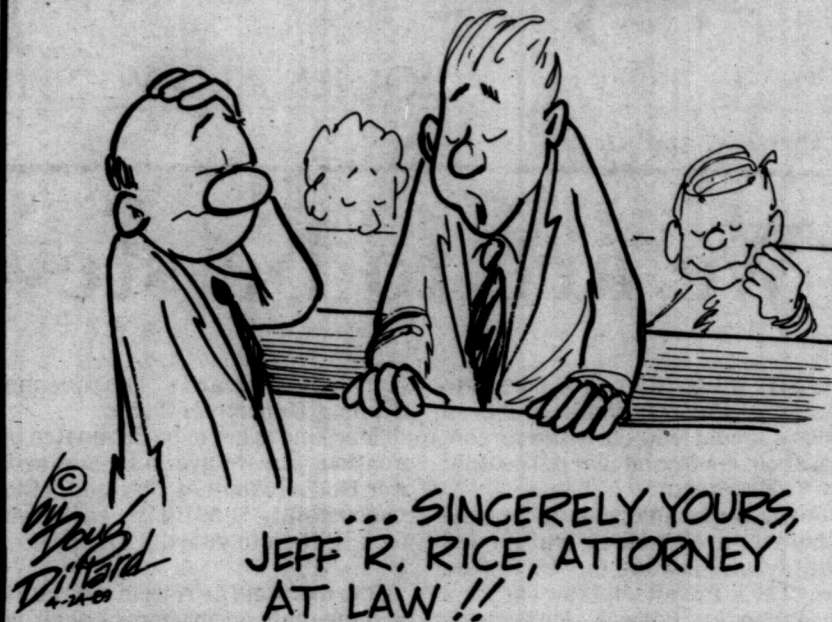
Thanks be unto God, it does not end here, but the Lord says, "Come now, let us reason together . . . though your sins be like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow."

Will we continue the process of fragmentation? Will three conventions be enough, or perhaps four or more? Will we creep into the shell of autonomy and avoid cooperating with any group? Whatever it is, this is one person who cannot get excited over the multiplicity of conventions. All of them have "spots in their feastsdays," and we need to "reason together" not only with the Lord, but with each other.

PulpiTEARS

With Bro. BLOTZ

A LAYMAN IN ARKANSAS ENDED HIS PRAYER...



... SINCERELY YOURS,
JEFF R. RICE, ATTORNEY
AT LAW !!

Grapes of wrath?

You fear to mention some things, lest they smack of sour grapes. The SBC program and the Pastors' Conference program are out, and as usual, there are few, if any, Mississippians on the list. Instead we get a regular diet of the same speakers.

Assuredly, we are not a populous state but we do have 675,000 Southern Baptists. We are not a wealthy state, but we gave over \$36 million in missions expenditures. We are ninth in baptisms among the 40 state conventions and fellowships, and we are ninth in total members. We've had Baptist work in the state for 200 years and have produced some outstanding SBC leaders.

Yet, year after year, we look at the SBC and Pastors' Conference programs and see few, if any, Mississippi pastors or lay leaders on program. There are certain pastors on program who have been on program for eight of the last ten years. Last year we had one pastor on program twice . . . must be a real shortage of qualified leaders.

There are 77 places on program for

the SBC and we have one, Larry Kulcke of Colonial Heights Church, Jackson, leading the singing. Way to go, Larry! The Pastors' Conference will have 45 preachers, singers, and concert artists, but Mississippi had the door slammed on us. OUCH!

Like I say, let's keep on doing the Lord's work and supporting our missions, never mind who is on the annual meeting program. I suspect some of the other states are also left out, and you don't hear them complaining.

Others may painfully point out that you don't purchase these slots on program with budgets nor baptisms, which sparks another question. Are they selected by an applause meter, an attendance yardstick, or a revolving dart board? I can't accept the smoke-filled backroom theory.

The program committee, I'm sure, is made up of members wanting a balanced program, and there must be tremendous pressure on them. I don't want to add any more, but maybe just a crumb from the rich man's table . . . Now and then, huh, fellows?

Music theme announced

ATLANTA (BP) — "Turning Our Hearts" will be the theme for the 1991 Southern Baptist Church Music Conference annual meeting June 2-3 in Atlanta, according to Mark Edwards, conference president.

A unique organization of local church ministers of music, college and seminary music faculty, and denominational church music workers, the conference's annual meeting is primarily a time of fellowship, musical inspiration, and an interchange of ideas, said Edwards, minister of music at First Church, Nashville.

Other highlights will be choral workshops led by Robert Burton, retired professor of conducting,

Southwestern Seminary, Fort Worth, Texas, and a HymnSing led by Bill Green, minister of music, First Church, Richardson, Texas.

In addition to Edwards, 1991 conference officers include: Bob Hatfield, Dawson Memorial Church, Birmingham, Ala., president-elect; Dot Pray, keyboard consultant for the Mississippi Baptist Convention, vice president of the denominational division; Lynn Madden, minister of music, Immanuel Church, Little Rock, Ark., vice president of local church division; and Betty Edsole, professor of music, Southern Seminary, Louisville, Ky., vice president of music educators division.

Americans believe in Bible but don't study it much

By Mark Wingfield

ATLANTA (BP) — While 82 percent of Americans believe the Bible is either the "literal" or "inspired" word of God, only 21 percent are engaged in Bible study, the Gallup Poll reports.

Further, half of the American population cannot name any of the four New Testament Gospels.

Despite these contradictions, the Bible remains the most widely read book in America, the Princeton Religion Research Center says in a newly published study titled, "The Role of the Bible in American Society." The booklet is a compilation of several Gallup polls on the Bible, including data collected as recently as November 1990.

The report offers insight into Americans' beliefs about the Bible, reading of the Bible and knowledge of the Bible.

Beliefs.

The percentage of Americans believing the Bible to be the "literal" word of God rose to 42 percent in 1990, up from a low of 37 percent in the 1970s and 1980s. By comparison, 65 percent of Americans believed in a literal Bible in the 1960s.

In 1990, another 40 percent of Americans described the Bible as the

"inspired" word of God, but not always to be interpreted as literally true.

Through the years, a fairly constant 11 to 14 percent of the population has classified the Bible as a book of fables, history, and moral precepts. In 1990, about 4 percent of the population was uncertain about how to regard the Bible.

A more in-depth study conducted in 1988 found 31 percent of Americans believe the Bible should be taken literally word-for-word, 24 percent believe it does not contain errors but some verses are to be taken symbolically rather than literally, and 22 percent believe it is inspired but may contain historical and scientific errors. Only 17 percent said the Bible is not inspired by God, while 6 percent had no opinion.

Reading.

In 1990 polls, 17 percent of Americans said they read the Bible daily, while 23 percent said they read it weekly and 13 percent said they read it monthly. Another 25 percent said they read it less than monthly, and 20 percent said they never read it.

Protestants are three times as like-

ly to read the Bible daily as Catholics. Also, females are more likely to read the Bible than males, adults age 50 and above are more likely to read it than younger adults, and Southerners are more likely to read the Bible than residents of other regions.

Nationally, 26 percent of adults claim to have read all the Old Testament while 35 percent claim to have read all the New Testament. Only 11 percent say they have read little or none of the Old Testament and 13 percent say they have read little or none of the New Testament.

When it comes to Bible study groups, 21 percent of American adults say they are involved. Protestants are twice as likely as Catholics to be involved in Bible study groups.

Knowledge.

When asked to name the first four books of the New Testament, the four Gospels, only half the population could name any.

Mark is the least-known Gospel, with only 40 percent naming it. Among the other books, 41 percent named Luke, 44 percent named Matthew and 45 percent named John.

Wingfield writes for HMB.

The Baptist Record

VOLUME 115

(ISSN-0005-5778)

NUMBER 10

Published weekly except weeks of July 4 and Christmas by the Mississippi Baptist Convention, 515 Mississippi Street, Jackson, MS 39201. Subscription \$7.35 a year payable in advance. Second class postage paid at Jackson, Mississippi. The Baptist Record is a member of Southern Baptist Press Association.

Editor Guy Henderson
Associate Editor Anne McWilliams
Advertising Manager Evelyn Keyes
Editorial Associate Florence Larrimore
Circulation Manager Renee Walley
Bookkeeper Betty Anne Bailey
Proofreader/Secretary Shannon Simpson
Editor Emeritus Don McGregor

Baptist Record Advisory Committee: Susan Kinton, Walnut Grove; Raymond Martin Jr., Jackson, vice-chairman; Billy Thames, Wesson, chairman; Randy Turner, Natchez; Tommy Tutor, Clarksdale; Randy Von Kanel, Hattiesburg; ex-officio, Evelyn Keyes, secretary, Jackson. Postmaster: Send changes of address to The BAPTIST RECORD, P. O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205.

Send news, communications, and address changes to
The Editor, Baptist Record
P. O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205

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Atlanta SBC will focus on spiritual awakening

By Herb Hollinger

ATLANTA (BP) — Calling a denomination and a nation to prayer for spiritual awakening will highlight the annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention at the Georgia World Congress Center, June 4-6.

"Jesus... There's Power in His Name" is the theme for the 134th session. All the business, reports, and sermons of the annual meeting are planned but also a special session designed as a call to spiritual prayer for spiritual awakening in America. A concert by a Patriotic Festival Choir, representing three Georgia churches, will begin the special evening session.

Keynote speeches during the three-day meeting will be Chapman's presidential address at the conclusion of the first session Tuesday morning and Tom D. Elliff, pastor of First

Southern Church, Del City, Okla., will bring the annual convention sermon Wednesday morning.

Elections for officers will begin Tuesday afternoon. Unlike recent conventions, there does not appear to be opposition to Chapman, who is eligible for another single year term. Most observers speculate the attendance may be down from the recent record numbers attending the annual meeting, primarily because of diminishing public confrontations between moderates and conservatives in the convention.

The Foreign Mission Board will close the Tuesday evening session while a special "Baptist Hour" 50th anniversary presentation by the Radio and Television Commission will close the annual meeting Thursday morning.

About four hours of business will be spread across the three days beginning Tuesday afternoon. Messengers will vote on a proposed \$140,710,282 1991-92 Southern Baptist Convention Cooperative Program Allocation Budget, a 2.46 percent increase over the current year.

Votes will also be taken on a proposed merger of the convention's public affairs committee and the Christian Life Commission, bylaw changes, and elimination of at-large and local trustee slots for three agencies.

Although the Wednesday evening session will be special it is not to be seen as a precedent, according to Waters. He said it will probably be a "one time" special emphasis and was not planned as a precedent for future conventions.

Hollinger is director, Baptist Press.

Missionary family returns to U.S. for Bethea burial, memorials

MOMBASA, Kenya (BP) — Southern Baptist missionary Ralph Bethea and his four children left Kenya April 3 for the United States, where his murdered wife, Lynda, was to be buried later in the week.

Her body was flown out of Kenya separately after being released by police officials investigating the killing.

She was beaten to death March 27 by robbers on a rural road in Kenya, according to her husband, also badly beaten as he tried to fight off the attackers. Local police initially reported four suspects had been arrested, but national police have since declined to comment on the case.

According to the hospital death certificate, Mrs. Bethea could have died from either of two blows to the head, one of which could have been caused by a machete. Bethea denied a widely circulated report by United Press International that said the attackers killed her by driving nails into her head.

Phone calls from America bore the news that a UPI story, carried over national radio by broadcaster Paul Harvey and CBS, said the gang that ambushed the couple had forced

Bethea to watch as they drove nails into his wife's head. The UPI story quoted The Daily Nation, one of three English-language daily newspapers in Kenya. ABC also reportedly carried a similar account based on the UPI story.

However, no such details were included in the coverage in The Nation. The managing editor of the paper told a Baptist representative that he would protest to UPI about attributing the false account to the paper.

Bethea said he was devastated by the report. "The reality was tragic enough," he said. "But what is the sense of saying things like that? Who does that benefit?"

Bethea also was concerned that people might think all Kenyans are cruel. "Tragedies like this happen in every nation and in every city and in most cities many more times in a week than the whole nation of Kenya has in a month," he said in a statement issued to Kenyan newspapers. "We've had many thousands of our Baptist people come to Kenya to help us in our work and not one has ever been hurt. We've found the Kenyan people to be of great generosity, graciousness, and kindness and we've

felt safe in this country. Lynda loved Kenya and she loved Kenyans."

The morning of March 30, Bethea returned with police to the scene of the attack. He had to be assisted into and out of the car because of injuries. At the scene, although he had to stop numerous times to gather his composure, he walked officers through the events of the night.

Bethea said he cradled his wife in his lap as she uttered words that he should take care of their children and, of the attackers, said, "They just need Jesus."

X-ray examinations of Bethea April 2 confirmed several cracked ribs and revealed a broken wrist. Bethea also is experiencing double vision. A CAT scan showed he sustained a slight concussion from blows to his head. He also suffered hip and shoulder injuries and numerous abrasions.

Memorial services were scheduled for April 5 at First Church, Tulsa, Okla. The Bethea family also planned to attend a memorial service later that day at First Church, Euless, Texas. Additional memorial services are scheduled for April 12 at First Church, Jackson, Miss., (see box) and (See BETHEA on page 5)

Pastors' speakers named

ATLANTA (BP) — The 1991 meeting of the Pastors' Conference will focus on revival — in the home, heart, land, and church — June 2-3 at Atlanta's World Congress Center, according to Richard G. Lee, conference president.

The theme, "Lord, Send Revival," will be the focus of 14 messages by pastors, evangelists, and others during four sessions, said Lee, pastor of Rehoboth Church, Tucker, Ga.

W.A. Criswell, senior pastor of First Church of Dallas and former SBC president, will conclude the conference Monday evening with his message.

Other pastors scheduled are Jerry Vines, First Church, Jacksonville, Fla.; Ed Young, Second Church, Houston; Adrian Rogers, Bellevue Church, suburban Memphis, Tenn.; Jimmy Draper, First Church, Euless, Texas; Darrell Gilyard, Victory Church, Richardson, Texas; and Jack Graham, Prestonwood Church, Dallas. Vines, Rogers, and Draper are former SBC presidents.

Current SBC president Morris Chapman, pastor of First Church, Wichita Falls, Texas, will bring a welcome Monday evening, said Lee.

Lt. Col. Oliver North, central figure in congressional hearings several

years ago on aid to Contras in Central America; Tim LaHaye, author and speaker; and Chuck Colson, author and speaker on prison ministries, will bring messages Monday afternoon.

Other speakers include: Tony Evans, Oak Cliff Bible Church, Dallas; Bailey Smith, evangelist from Atlanta; Bill Stafford, evangelist from Chattanooga, Tenn.; and Paige Patterson, president, Criswell Bible College, Dallas.

Choirs from Rehoboth Church, Atlanta; Metropolitan Church, Houston; and First Church, Wichita Falls, Texas, will begin each session with mini-concerts. Musical selections will also be given by concert artists Kendra Cook, Lynchburg, Va.; Janet Paschal, Reidsville, N.C.; and Larnelle Harris, Nashville.

Other special musical selections will be presented by Mike and Faye Speck, music evangelists from Owasso, Okla., and The Stone Brothers, music evangelists from Jacksonville, Fla.

In addition to Lee, officers of the 1991 conference are Ruffin Snow, pastor of Eastwood Church, Tulsa, Okla., vice president, and David Hankins, pastor of Trinity Church, Lake Charles, La., secretary-treasurer.

Converts remain imprisoned

CAIRO, Egypt (BP) — Three Muslim converts to Christianity arrested nearly six months ago will be imprisoned for at least 45 more days after a March 27 hearing in an Egyptian court operating under martial law.

According to Menes Abdul Noor, pastor of the 1,000-member Kasr el Doubara Evangelical Church in Cairo, the converts are charged with contempt for Islam and threatening the unity of Egypt. The men have been part of Noor's congregation since con-

verting to Christianity about five years ago.

The men's names are Mustafa Muhammad Sa'id Al Sharkawi, 30; Muhammad Hussein Sallam, 25; and Hassan Muhammad Isma'eel Muhammad, 21. Their names often are spelled in different ways in various English-language reports.

At the Egyptian Embassy in Washington, D.C., however, press officials said they were unaware of charges against three Egyptian converts to Christianity.

Memorial service set for Bethea

Memorial Service for Lynda Bethea, missionary slain in Kenya, will be held on Friday, April 12, at 2 p.m. The service will be at First Church, Jackson, and the family will receive visitors in the sanctuary parlor from 10-12 noon before the service. Graveside Service will be held 4:30 p.m. the same day at the family farm near Edwards (take the Natchez Trace, exit at Highway 467, and go west for four miles).



1st, Brookhaven gives \$88,000 for Lottie

Bob Self, pastor of First Church, Brookhaven, presents a check for \$88,120.25 to Marjean Patterson, Mississippi Woman's Missionary Union executive director, for the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering. This gift from members of First Church, Brookhaven, was the third largest in the state given to the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering, 1990. First Church, Jackson, was first, giving \$169,442.52 and First Church, Columbus, was second, giving \$105,429.25.

First quarter CP gifts fall \$42,000

First quarter Cooperative Program gifts given through the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board totaled \$5,305,920, according to Bill Causey, executive director-treasurer of the MBCB.

This amount is \$42,414 less than that given in the first three months of 1990,

or a .79 percent drop. However, the total is \$68,430, or 1.31 percent, over the pro rata amount of \$5,237,491.

The pro rata amount is figured by taking one-twelfth of the total 1991 budget amount of \$20,949,962, and multiplying that figure by the number of months elapsed.

Giving by the 2,000 Mississippi Baptist churches in March was \$1,444,535.28.

Cooperative Program gifts go to Mississippi and Southern Baptist causes to fund missions, Christian education, leadership training, and benevolent programs.

Southern Baptist Convention

June 4-6, 1991

Georgia World Congress Center, Atlanta

Theme: "Jesus . . . There's Power in HIS Name"

Scripture: "... thou shalt call his name Jesus: for he shall save his people from their sins" (Matthew 1:21)

TUESDAY MORNING, JUNE 4

- 8:15 Music for Inspiration
- 8:30 Call to Order
Congregational Singing — Jack Price, convention music director, Garland, Texas; Billy Jack Green, associate, Marietta, Ga.
- 8:35 Prayer — Ray Fowler, pastor, Bel-Air Church, Augusta, Ga.
- 8:40 Registration Report and Constitution of Convention — Lee Porter, registration secretary, projects consultant, Sunday School youth-adult department, Sunday School Board, Nashville
- 8:45 Committee on Order of Business (First Report) — Danny E. Watters, chairman, pastor, Beulah Church, Douglasville, Ga.
- 8:50 Welcome — James N. Griffith, executive director, Georgia Baptist Convention, Atlanta
- 8:55 Response — Vander Warner Jr., pastor, Grove Avenue Church, Richmond, Va.
- 9:00 Announcement of Committee on Committees, Credentials, Resolutions, and Tellers
- 9:05 Radio and Television Commission Report — Jack B. Johnson, president, Fort Worth, Texas
- 9:15 Home Mission Board Report — Larry L. Lewis, president, Atlanta
- 9:25 Executive Committee Report (Part 1) — Harold C. Bennett, president and treasurer, Nashville
- 10:25 American Bible Society Report — Fred A. Allen, church relations director, New York
- 10:35 Introduction of Business and Resolutions
- 11:05 Annuity Board Report — Paul W. Powell, president, Dallas
- 11:15 Congregational Singing — Billy Jack Green; First Church Choir, Wichita Falls, Texas
- 11:20 Music — Chris Chapman, college minister, Prestonwood Church, Dallas
- 11:25 President's Address — Morris H. Chapman, pastor, First Church, Wichita Falls, Texas
- 12:00 Benediction — Bernie Moraga, pastor, Camino Real Baptist Mission, Rockwall, Texas

TUESDAY AFTERNOON, JUNE 4

- 1:00 Music for Inspiration
- 2:00 Congregational Singing — Dick Thomassian, minister of music, Whitesburg Church, Huntsville, Ala.
- 2:05 Prayer — Claude Thomas, pastor, Council Road Church, Bethany, Okla.
- 2:10 Messenger Information Survey — Martin B. Bradley, director, corporate planning and research department, Sunday School Board, Nashville
- 2:20 Business
Committee on Order of Business (Second Report) — Danny E. Watters
Introduction of Business and Resolutions
- 2:30 Election of Officers (First)
- 2:45 Executive Committee Report (Part 2) — Harold C. Bennett
- 3:30 Congregational Singing — Dick Thomassian; Metropolitan Church Choir, Houston, Dick Hill
- 3:35 Committee on Nominations Report — James W. Richards Jr., Southminster Church, Baton Rouge, La.
- 3:50 Christian Life Commission Report — Richard D. Land, executive director, Nashville
- 4:00 Congregational Singing — Dick Thomassian
- 4:05 Business
Committee on Order of Business (Third Report) — Danny E. Watters
Committee on Committees Report
Introduction of Business and Resolutions
Miscellaneous Business
- 4:45 Election of Officers (Second)
- 5:00 Benediction — Chester H. Holmes Jr., pastor, Hampton Heights Church, Greenville, S.C.

TUESDAY EVENING, JUNE 4

- 6:30 Music for Inspiration
- 7:00 Congregational Singing — Bob Reeder, minister of music, First Church, Ft. Lauderdale, Fla.
- 7:05 Prayer — John H. Traylor Jr., pastor, First Church, Monroe, La.
- 7:10 Election of Officers (Third)
- 7:20 Baptist World Alliance Report — Denton Lotz, general secretary-treasurer, McLean, Va.
- 7:30 Congregational Singing — Bob Reeder; combined choirs
- 7:35 Bold Mission Thrust Report — Harold C. Bennett
- 7:45 Brotherhood Commission Report — James H. Smith, president, Memphis, Tenn.
- 7:55 Stewardship Commission Report — A.R. Fagan, president, Nashville
- 8:05 Woman's Missionary Union Report — Dellanna W. O'Brien, executive director, Birmingham, Ala.
- 8:15 Congregational Singing — Bob Reeder; Sonny Stroud, minister of music, and Dana Stroud, Calvary Temple, Savannah, Ga.
- 8:20 Foreign Mission Board Report — R. Keith Parks, president, Richmond, Va.
- 9:15 Benediction — Michael S. Hamlet, pastor, First Church, North Spartanburg, S.C.

WEDNESDAY MORNING, JUNE 5

- 8:15 Music for Inspiration — Festival choirs/orchestra with soloist John Montgomery, minister of music, Second Church, Springfield, Mo.; and will include Colonial Heights Church, Jackson, Miss., Larry Kulcke, minister of music
- 8:50 Congregational Singing — Joe Estes, minister of music, New Hope Church, Fayetteville, Ga.

- 8:55 Prayer — Ron Hardin, layman, First Church, Wichita Falls, Texas
- 9:00 Election of Officers (Fourth)
- 9:10 Education Commission Report — Arthur L. Walker, executive director, Nashville
- 9:20 New Orleans Seminary Report — Landrum P. Leavell II, president, New Orleans
- 9:30 Midwestern Seminary Report — Milton Ferguson, president, Kansas City, Mo.
- 9:40 Golden Gate Seminary Report — William O. Crews, president, Mill Valley, Calif.
- 9:50 Commission on American Baptist Seminary Report — Arthur L. Walker, secretary-treasurer, Nashville
- 9:55 Congregational Singing — Joe Estes; festival choirs with soloist Archie K. Jackson, minister of music, Hillcrest Church, Jacksonville, Fla.
- 10:00 Southwestern Seminary Report — Russell H. Dilday, president, Fort Worth, Texas
- 10:10 Southern Seminary Report — Roy L. Honeycutt, president, Louisville, Ky.
- 10:20 Southeastern Seminary Report — Lewis A. Drummond, president, Wake Forest, N.C.
- 10:30 Presentation of Past Presidents
- 10:40 Public Affairs Committee Report — Albert Lee Smith, chairman, First Church, Birmingham, Ala.
- 10:50 Congregational Singing — Joe Estes
- 10:55 Election of Officers (Fifth)
- 11:00 Business
Committee on Order of Business (Fourth Report) — Danny E. Watters
Committee on Resolutions (First Report)
Miscellaneous Business
- 11:55 Music — Don McMinn, minister of music, and Mary McMinn, First Southern Church, Del City, Okla.
- 12:00 Convention Sermon — Tom D. Elliff, pastor, First Southern Church, Del City, Okla.
- 12:30 Benediction — Anthony Jordan, pastor, Northwest Church, Oklahoma City

NO WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON SESSION

WEDNESDAY EVENING, JUNE 5

- 6:00 Music for Inspiration — PATRIOTIC FESTIVAL CHOIR
- 6:30 Congregational Singing — Ragan Vandegriff III
- 6:35 Prayer — Ron Hanie, pastor, White Oak Hills Church, Stone Mountain, Ga.
- 6:40 Business
Committee on Order of Business (Fifth Report) — Danny E. Watters
Election of Convention Sermon Preacher and Alternate, and Music Director, 1992
Denominational Calendar Committee Report — Newman N. Antonson, pastor, Tyler Road Southern Church, Wichita, Kan.
- 6:45 Presentation of Newly Elected SBC Officers
- 6:50 CALL TO PRAYER FOR SPIRITUAL AWAKENING IN AMERICA — Introduction — Jim Henry, pastor, First Church, Orlando, Fla.
CALL TO A FRESH ENCOUNTER WITH GOD — Morris H. Chapman, Scripture reading — Philippians 2:5-11; Message — Charles F. Stanley, pastor, First Church, Atlanta; Music — First Church, Orlando, Fla.; Presentation of Banners and Crowns
CALL TO CONFESSION AND HUMILITY — Philippians 2:5-7
CALL TO THE CROSS AND SACRIFICE — Philippians 2:8-9 — David Ring, evangelist, Orlando, Fla.; Daniel J. Yeary, pastor, University Church, Coral Gables, Fla.; Special Music — Life Action Singers
CALL TO CELEBRATION — Philippians 2:9-11 — Mike Huffman, pastor, First Church, Aurora, N.C.; Congregational Song of Praise — Ron Owens
CALL TO RENEW OUR COVENANT WITH GOD — Philippians 2:12-16 — Minette W. Drumwright, director, International Prayer Strategy, Foreign Mission Board, Richmond, Va.; Jim Henry; Morris H. Chapman; Larry L. Lewis; Congregational Singing — "All Hail the Power"
- 9:30 Benediction

THURSDAY MORNING, JUNE 6

- 8:15 Music for Inspiration — Combined choirs/orchestra
- 8:50 Congregational Singing — Roger Christian
- 8:55 Prayer — Wayne McCraw, pastor, Old Forest Road Church, Lynchburg, Va.
- 9:00 Introduction of Fraternal Representatives
- 9:05 Southern Baptist Foundation Report — Hollis E. Johnson III, president, Nashville
- 9:15 Report on Southern Baptist Convention Canada Planning Group — Larry L. Lewis
- 9:25 Denominational Press Report — Herbert V. Hollinger, vice-president for Baptist Press, SBC Executive Committee, Nashville
- 9:35 Historical Commission Report — Lynn E. May Jr., executive director, Nashville
- 9:45 Congregational Singing — Roger Christian; combined choirs
- 9:50 Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs Report — James M. Dunn, executive director, Washington
- 10:00 Baptist Sunday School Board Report — Lloyd Elder, president, Nashville
- 10:20 Congregational Singing — Roger Christian; combined choirs
- 10:25 Business
Committee on Resolutions (Final Report)
- 10:45 Recognition of Outgoing Officers — Harold C. Bennett
- 10:50 Radio and Television Commission "Baptist Hour" 50th Anniversary — Jack B. Johnson; Joel Gregory, pastor, First Church, Dallas
- 11:20 Benediction

Letters to the editor

On behalf of the missionaries

Editor:

I would like to speak a word on behalf of the missionaries serving overseas under the auspices of our Foreign Mission Board. A new policy covering termination of missionary personnel has recently been printed in the Manual for Overseas Personnel (Reference: MOP-201, MOP-202) and distributed to missionaries currently under appointment.

Twelve conditions considered as "career threatening" make up the bulk of the policy statement. These are relatively routine, covering such items as dishonesty, immorality, homosexuality, divorce, and "persistent insubordination in relation to supervisors and/or stated policies."

What caused me to react with disbelief was the concluding statement in the preamble to this list of career threatening conditions. It reads: "... they are not all-inclusive, and the Foreign Mission Board always retains the right to terminate any field personnel for any reason satisfactory to the board without disclosing to the person the reason for the termination."

No stateside agency or institution of our convention would even consider imposing such a policy on its employees. Why should the Foreign Mission Board be allowed to do so? Must one surrender all rights and privileges in order to become a missionary? Do the architects of this new policy really believe it will enhance the work of overseas missions? Are our missionaries not entitled to know the reasons for their termination?

The missionaries I know are some of the most responsible, most capable, and most dedicated persons in the world. I think they deserve more freedom and trust than the new policy allows them. After all, if missionaries can't be trusted, who can?

Page H. Kelley
Southern Seminary

Alternate view on solemn assemblies

Editor:

I feel I must express an alternate view on solemn assemblies after reading Carl Bates' letter in the March 21 edition of *The Baptist Record*.

While God did and does reject empty holy days as in Amos 5, He also called His people to a solemn assembly to intercede for their nation in Joel 2.

Like the prophets (Isaiah 6, Daniel 9) we live in a troubled and dark nation. I am very encouraged that there are those in our Baptist ranks who are attempting to call our people to pray, fasting, and a solemn seeking of our Lord for revival and cleansing.

I cannot quote the lyrics of our modern rock stars today as our brother did in his letter to describe our spiritual condition, but I do agree with the gospel song writer who wrote, "The world is asleep in the darkness while the church is asleep in the light."

Seeking the Lord with a heavy heart has nothing to do with the position of the Holy Spirit in our lives. How we need God to stir our churches to power and godliness. Jeremiah 29:13 is still in our Bibles.

Steve Bennett
Southaven



Coalition files suit

The American Family Association Law Center of Tupelo has filed suit in Federal Court, Clarksdale against Governor Ray Mabus, the State Tax Commissioners, and the executive director of the Mississippi Gaming Commission. The suit, filed on behalf of Mississippians for Quality Life, was announced at a press conference at the capitol, March 29. It lists 14 plaintiffs and alleges individuals who oppose legalized gambling on cruise vessels have been unconstitutionally denied their rights. The suit also challenges the voting provisions of the Gaming Act as violating the equal protection and due process clauses of the U.S. and Mississippi Constitutions. Mississippians for Quality Life is a coalition of members from counties which could be affected by legalized gambling. MQL members include several Baptist pastors, directors of missions, and lay people. Shown above, left to right, are Bobby Perry, director of missions, Gulf Coast Association; Clayton Bath, pastor, Port Gibson Church; Dale Little, director of missions, Adams-Union Association; James Walters, pastor, Eastlawn Church, Pascagoula; and Peggy Coleman, Tupelo, attorney for the coalition. Nathan Barber, Bay St. Louis, is chairman, MQL.

An appeal to Southern Baptists

By Jim Henry

We need your help! I'm writing on behalf of the SBC Call to Spiritual Awakening Task Force appointed by President Morris Chapman last year. We believe the Lord is doing a new thing in our midst. Here's how you can help:

1. Pray for that historic Wednesday night session of the SBC. The Home Mission Board has graciously yielded its time so this extraordinary session can take place. Our committee has asked every agency to enlist its prayer partners, we've written every denomination and asked them to pray for Southern Baptists on that night, our seminaries are making it a matter of prayer in chapel and faculty meetings, and our home and foreign missionaries are notified and praying.

2. Plan to be present. We are going to submit ourselves to the living Christ in a corporate session of praise, testimony, confession, and the reading of Scripture.

3. A part of the evening is to confess our sins as individuals, churches, and as a nation. Jonya Davis, a member of our committee, along with a group from her church, is serving as a clearing house to catalog these sins in three areas:

- Not loving God wholeheartedly and honoring Christ as Lord.
- Not loving other Christians as Christ loved the church.
- Loving the world more than the lost.

Without identifying specific names, send those sins you feel need to be confessed in the service to: Mrs. Jonya Davis, P. O. Box 36, Russellville, AR 72801.

4. Ask your church or association to join this extraordinary evening in one of three ways:

- a) Set aside your Wednesday night service as a time of prayer for your church, our denomination, our nation, and the session in Atlanta.
- b) Join in by linking up with the ACTS Network and participating along with those gathered in Atlanta.
- c) Contact your director of missions and he will have information on the format that we're using so that you can have a comparable service in your association or church.

Our world and nation are at a definitive point in history. In these urgent days we need to be a purified people. We're praying for a spiritual breakthrough to begin on June 5. Thanks for your obedience to Christ.

Henry is chairman, Spiritual Awakening Task Force.

Hight honored as librarian "role model"

NASHVILLE — Juanita Hight, media library director for First Church, Louisville, Miss., was honored as a "role model for servant leadership" during the National Church Media Library Seminar — East at the Baptist Sunday School Board, March 21.

Mancil Ezell, director of the board's church media library department, said Hight has provided "years of support and promotion for the church media library program in her church, in Mississippi, and nationally."

Hight has actively enlisted and trained new workers for her church, and has involved volunteer workers at

her church in associational, state and national training events. Additionally, she has been active in work to foster media libraries in other churches.

"Leaders who want to create a church media library ministry based on excellence and integrity always articulate the bigger goals, the dreams, the vision which excite followers' imagination and sustain their spirits," said Ezell.

Hight was one of two honored as "role models." The other was Mary Ellen Draper of Briarlake Church, Decatur, Ga.

Metro Church will sponsor world missions conference

Metro Church, 1800 T.V. Road, Jackson, will sponsor a World Mission Conference April 12-14. There will be a covered-dish supper at 6 p.m. Friday night and the meeting will be from 7 until 9 p.m. Saturday sessions will be 9:30-12 a.m. and 1-3 p.m. Lunch will be served at the church.

Guest speakers will be Gaynell and James I. Stewart. James Stewart, president of Immanuel Baptist College and Seminary, Atlanta, Ga., will speak on missions. Gaynell Stewart, professor at Immanuel, will speak at some sessions on the cults.

James Stewart will also preach at the 11 a.m. service on Sunday. For more information, call 372-3311.

Ministers' wives set luncheon

ATLANTA (BP) — The Southern Baptist Ministers' Wives organization will hear Charles Petty, a Christian family humorist from Raleigh, N.C., at their annual luncheon June 4, according to the group's president, Carole Hughes of Independence, Mo.

The ministers' wives' group holds it luncheon each year in conjunction with the Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting. This year the luncheon will be in the Grand Ballroom of the Omni Hotel in Atlanta.

Tickets may be ordered before May 20 by sending a check for \$17 to Margaret Murchison, 3235 Ramsgate Road, Augusta, GA 30909. Tickets will be \$19 at the door.

BETHEA

From page 3

April 13 at Highview Church, Louisville, Ky.

Bethea and his children, Ralph III, 17; Joshua, 13; Luke, 12; and Lizette, 9, plan to spend time with his parents in Oklahoma and on a family farm in Mississippi and decide whether or not to return to Kenya.

The family is being accompanied to the United States by Joseph Maisha, pastor of the 4,000-member Ushindi Baptist Church in Mombasa, and Bay Forrest, a Southern Baptist who teaches at Rift Valley Academy in Kenya, where the two older Bethea children attend school.



Mancil Ezell presents plaque to Juanita Hight.

A. C. Johnson, former Clarke president, dies at 77

Alvis Clayton (A.C.) Johnson died April 3 at Anderson Medical Center, Meridian, at age 77. Funeral services were held at State Boulevard Baptist Church, Meridian, at 11 a.m. on April 5, with Dennis Jones and Gordon Sanning officiating. The retired educator had served as president of Clarke College prior to its merger with Mississippi College.

Johnson, a native of Newton County, was a member and past chairman of deacons of State Boulevard Church, where he had taught Sunday School. He was a past moderator of Lauderdale County Baptist Association.

He received a master's degree from

the University of Mississippi, the juris doctorate from the University of Alabama, and an honorary doctor of divinity degree from the London Institute of Applied Research. He was a member of the Mississippi Bar Association.

He had taught numerous courses at Meridian Community College and N.A.S., Meridian, and had served as interim pastor of churches in Lauderdale County. He had served as coordinator of the Gulf Coast branch of the University of Southern Mississippi.

Survivors include his wife, Bertie McMahan Johnson of Meridian; and sister; and one brother.

MC School of Law names Jones first holder, Owen Cooper chair

Shirley Norwood Jones of Jackson, professor of law at the Mississippi College School of Law, has been named the first holder of the Owen Cooper Chair of Law at the school according to Alton H. Harvey, dean.

The announcement came during a luncheon in her honor at a north Jackson restaurant attended by Mrs. Owen Cooper and other relatives of the late Owen Cooper.

The Owen Cooper Chair of Law is the first endowed academic chair at the Mississippi College School of Law. Funding for the chair was begun in 1983 by friends and business partners of Cooper. Initial funding was provided by First Mississippi Foundation.

Cooper, who died in 1986, was the past president of Mississippi

Chemical Corporation, Yazoo City. He had served as SBC president, as vice-president of the Baptist World Alliance, and as president of the Mississippi Baptist Convention.

Cooper was a longtime supporter of Mississippi College. He earned his law degree from the Jackson School of Law, forerunner of the present Mississippi College School of Law, and in 1970 the college conferred upon him the honorary Doctor of Laws degree.

Prior to joining the Mississippi College School of Law faculty in 1977, Professor Jones was in the private practice of law in Jackson. She is a magna cum laude graduate of Millsaps College and earned the LL.B. and J.D. degrees from the University of Mississippi School of Law, finishing first in her graduating class.

The Mississippi College School of Law, in downtown Jackson, is fully accredited by the American Bar Association and holds membership in the Association of American Law Schools.

Free Concert Sponsored by Sharon Baptist Church "Love Offering"

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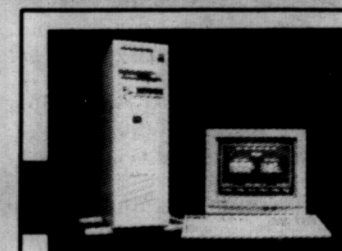


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Book reviews

Homes of Grace "help build hope for people who have lost hope"

"A woman has a lot of pressure today trying to be a mother, a wife, and a full-time employee," said Billy Barton, executive director, Home of Grace, Vancleave. "This pressure can cause her to turn to alcohol or drugs as a way of escape. Finding herself addicted, she will realize that most treatment centers cost thousands of dollars. What can she do? Where can she go?"

"A man with a past filled with drug abuse or alcoholism," continued Barton, "finds himself without a job and on the verge of losing family and friends. He has no insurance to pay for treatment. What can he do? Where can he go?"

The Homes of Grace have provided help for these people for over 25 years. They have enrolled thousands, including senior citizens, battered wives, and parolees. "During the past year, they have averaged over 120 people a day in their program," Barton said. "By sharing love, kindness, and Christian concern, we have helped those in need."

The Homes of Grace are making plans to construct three new buildings. One will be constructed in Gautier at the "Shelter," a facility for homeless senior citizens. Their present building was constructed 22 years ago with used materials.

Another will be constructed in Vancleave at the "Haven," home for women who have been battered or have a substance abuse problem. It will accommodate 16 additional women.

The third, to be in Vancleave at the "Men's Home," will replace a building destroyed by a flood in 1987.

Gifts of local people and others help to operate these facilities, Barton said. For more information, address The Homes of Grace, 14200 Jericho Road, Vancleave, MS 39564.

The first Home of Grace was opened in January, 1965, by the present

director's father, Bill Barton Sr., a Southern Baptist.

A story in the March 1 issue of the Mississippi Press, written by Donna Michelle Manning, told the story of the older Barton's life and ministry.

In 1924, W. L. "Bill" Barton Sr. was born without an upper lip or palate in the roof of his mouth. By first grade, he had endured 13 operations. After his Sunday School teacher told him God loved him, he asked his mother if that were true; his mother told him the story of Jesus. Then, at age 5, Barton says, he was saved.

Two years later, he heard a missionary from Brazil speak; then he knelt by a well and prayed. "I knew I was born to preach. One problem, no one could understand me, except my mother and my father."

When Bill was 12, his father came home drunk. This shocked him so that he never forgot it. During World War II, Barton enrolled in a vocational course at Auburn University to study airplane mechanics. His mother called him to come home, that his father was drunk, had broken his leg, and had lost their sawmill. Barton got his certificate early and went home. However, at 52, his father quit drinking, and lived to be 84.

For a while, Barton worked as a millwright, and then attended Toccoa Falls Bible College in Georgia. There he met his future wife, Jean, a high school senior in Toccoa. Also while he was there, a preacher from New York told him, "There's not a church in America that would call you to be a pastor. Go on back to being a millwright."

With this discouragement, he went to his room and prayed. Now he recalls, "The Lord said to me, 'I never promised you the first team, but you are on my team.' I knew I would preach."

His first pastorate was in a tent with

a sawdust floor. Members grew from a handful to 110. His next pastorate was at Satsuma, Ala. At age 32, he had three operations for the lip, palate, and nose. His congregation said he sounded better. In six years, attendance rose from 70 to 450. From there, he went to the pastorate of Jackson Avenue Church, Pascagoula.

Barton and his wife have four sons, Manly, Virgil, Billy, and Michael. A daughter, Melody, died at age 16 in a motorcycle accident.

In 1963, Barton started visiting Alcoholics Anonymous with a friend. From that, alcoholics who needed a dollar or someone to help them get out of jail, would contact him.

In 1964, he and some friends took 13 men to a spiritual retreat at Victory Home, Tallulah Falls, Ga., where a man could take part in an 8-week program and receive spiritual help. This "set Barton's heart on fire" to open such a home for alcoholics and drug addicts in Mississippi. He did, accepting the first man in January, 1965.

E. H. Bacot gave 10 acres of property for the cause. Since that time, 20,000 men have come through the Home of Grace. Some completed the 8-week program; some failed but returned later with new determination to make it; some dropped out, usually to die of an alcohol-related incident.

During eight weeks at the Home, the men go through 64 evangelistic services, 56 devotions, 20 group sessions, and 20 film viewings. Each man receives counseling and each is given a job assignment.

According to Bill Barton Jr., "My parents both have the gift of love. They both love people for who they are and not because they can get something out of them."

The new buildings being planned are expected to cost around \$400,000. The Homes of Grace will launch a capital building fund drive in April.

ESCAPING THE SHADOWS, SEEKING THE LIGHT — CHRISTIANS IN RECOVERY FROM CHILDHOOD SEXUAL ABUSE, by Connie Brewer (Harper Collins, 157 pp.; \$7.95, paper, 1991).

This book is not for the weak-stomached. Factual, first hand accounts are given by survivors of childhood sexual abuse. The overall message is one of hope in God's grace, but the reading is hard to take.

Brewer has written beautifully and effectively about the too-common problem of sexual abuse of children. Her book would prove a valuable tool for ministers or counsellors.

The book includes prayers at the end of each chapter, written by the survivors themselves. Brewer also adds in the final pages a suggested reading list for adult children of alcoholics and sufferers of grief, addiction, incest, and other problems. All of the solutions and readings are based on the Alcoholics Anonymous Twelve-Step Program, but with added emphasis on submission to the Lord for healing.

Tough, but excellent! — STS

A CONCISE DICTIONARY OF CULTS AND RELIGIONS by William Watson (Moody Press, 299 pp., paper).

This book's unique feature is that it has three cross-referenced sections: the dictionary provides basic information on cults, religions, religious leaders, front groups, and publications; the bibliography gives the reader information about where to go for more help; and the last section lists counter-cult organizations that offer help on specific cults.

The author, Bill Watson, minister of education at First Baptist Church, Lufkin, Texas, grew up in Mississippi, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Wm. G. Watson of Clinton. He is a graduate of Mississippi College and Southwestern Seminary. Before Lufkin, Watson was

minister of education at Morrison Heights Church, Clinton, and Ridgcrest Church, Jackson. He and his wife, Kathy, have two daughters, Jennifer, 13, and Amy, 3.

Watson has earned Interfaith Witness Associate certification, in the areas of the occult and the New Age movement, from the Home Mission Board, SBC, and has taught several seminars on the cults.

Scores of cults are spreading across the country. Here's a guide to unraveling that tangle of cults and new religions.

This is an easy-to-read, well organized, comprehensive, thoroughly researched reference tool that would make a great addition to anyone's library. — AWM

IMPRESSIONS in verse and otherwise, by Mary Lillian Peters Whitten; Printers, Inc., Columbia, S.C., available from the author at 308 N. Wayne St., Macon, MS 39341, paper, 69 pp.)

Mrs. Whitten at various times has been an English teacher, public school music teacher, band director, orchestra director, choral director, piano teacher, and church organist, a position she still holds at First Church, Macon. This is her second book of verse; also she has written a book on genealogy, co-authored by her sister, Eddie Peters Holloman.

The volume includes poems under the categories of real life, travel, observations, people, enterprise, family, inspiration, nature, and Wayne Street. The "impressions" are vivid, many of them nostalgic, recalling people and places from the author's past. Some are humorous; some are inspirational; some are thought-provoking. The book, dedicated "to all the students I have taught," is recommended reading for poetry lovers. — AWM

Storyteller's greatest wish is that laughter will lead to a closer walk with Jesus

By Shannon T. Simpson

"A hearty, belly-deep laugh is good for the soul."

Such is the philosophy of storyteller Marlyn Fortenberry of Columbia. On program at a senior adult rally held March 26 at the Jeff Davis-Covington



Columbia's Marlyn Fortenberry.

Associational Center, Fortenberry used his talent to make about 300 people laugh.

He told the story of his boyhood friend, "Hippity Hop," with whom he skipped Sunday School to dynamite the local fishing hole. When old black Jake arrived to fish, they knew they were in trouble. They waited too long to warn Jake. By the time the mud cleared from the blast, all they knew of Jake was his retreating shouts of, "Lord, Lord, if you get me out of this one, I swear I'll never fish on Sunday again!" The next Sunday, he was seated on the front pew.

Fortenberry says he may never have won a soul to the Lord, but he sure did run one to Him.

Another tale was about his attempt to steal his mother's freshly-made muscadine jelly from atop the pie safe. When the Sears & Roebuck Wishbook slipped under his feet and the jelly crashed to the floor, he lit out for the darkest corner of the cowshed. His mother found him and got after him with a peach switch, but not before his heart had broken from his disobedience. When she heard his cries of apology, she tossed the switch into the wood pile and drew him close.

"Now, if our mamas can forgive us

like that, just because we are sorry, how much better is God's forgiveness?"

At 72, Fortenberry cannot recall a time when he didn't tell stories. "I've been doing it all my life, I guess." He believes his gift came from the Lord, and tries to use it to uplift Him in return.

He once told the Lord, "Don't ever let me feel like an entertainer. If those people don't get your message out of what I say, then take the gift away."

He uses laughter to gauge his success with audiences or techniques, and is constantly changing or refining his stories.

Most of Fortenberry's stories come from his childhood, "colored a little," but one came from the Bible — his portrayal of Simon Peter. The idea came during a study at his church, which focused on one apostle each Sunday for a quarter. Fortenberry presented First Church, Columbia, with what was more a performance than a Bible lesson. He has since portrayed Simon Peter 107 times for nursing homes, children's groups, Sunday Schools, and secular organizations, and would like more opportunities to do so.

"My greatest wish for people who

hear my stories is that they would be led to a closer walk with Jesus," he says, "or be led to become a child of his."

Fortenberry himself has been a child of Jesus since July 9, 1952, when he was saved at a Billy Graham crusade in Jackson. "I had joined a church before, but never joined Jesus."

Since that time, he has been very active in his church. He taught young boys in Sunday School until he was 70, then became department director for senior adults, where he still serves.

Aside from his story telling and church service, Fortenberry and his wife of 50 years, Lois, spend time in their rose garden — about 85 bushes of 40 varieties. The trick, he says, is to water them one inch a week, feed them every six weeks, and prune a lot.

Asked why people seem to enjoy his stories so much, he replies: "Sometimes, they need to put down their burdens for a little while, or maybe they like to go back and remember something from their youth."

"But it just does me good to look out and see peoples' bellies shakin'. They all have so many problems, even older people. People need to laugh."



Fairchilds will give concert in Louisville

The Fairchild sisters will be presented in concert at First Church, Louisville, on Sunday, April 14, at 1:30 p.m. The three girls, Renae, center, and twins, LaRisa and Treba, were born while their father, James Fairchild, was pastor (1948-1958) at First Church, Louisville.

A reception will be given on Saturday evening, April 13, at 6:30 p.m. at the church for the sisters, their husbands, their brother David, and their parents. All of these are to be weekend guests of the church at Tiak O'Khata.

The Fairchild sisters have made singing tours to 15 countries of five continents as "Official Ambassadors of Goodwill." They have appeared on the Grand Ole Opry and on the "Nashville on the Road" television show, in addition to churches, conventions, and many other places.

== You don't work alone . . . we're right alongside you . . . and lo, He is with us always. ==

alongside



Thursday
April 11, 1991

Produced in cooperation
with the Baptist Record.

This Issue of alongside is a Supplement to the BAPTIST RECORD, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board



"Unto the Least of These..."

She stepped right out into the aisle of our church during the first stanza of the invitation hymn on a recent Sunday morning.

She headed quickly toward our pastor, where she would express her intention to ask for church membership.

Her eight-year old frame was stretched as tall as she could make it. She wore one of her prettiest "Sunday" dresses and a matching bow in her hair. Her sweet face was radiant and her broad smile reflected the decision she had gone forward to declare - she had asked Jesus to come into her heart!

Casey is a little girl whom I have known and loved since the day she made her entrance into the world. And I knew that she already knew a lot about Jesus. Because of life-long participation in a wonderful church which provides a well-rounded program in religious education and music, and with excellent leaders, she has learned a great deal in many different areas.

Recently she told me she was memorizing the books of the Old Testament as part of a church activity. Though I encouraged her in her desire to be able to say the names of all the books of the Old Testament in their proper order, I was careful not to tell her that I cannot do that! I get bogged down somewhere past Ezra and Nehemiah!

She loves GA and choir and Discipleship Training. She enjoys participating in anything which has a dramatic flair to it and she is learning to play the piano.

I was not at all surprised when she phoned to say she had become a Christian. I have always had a great deal of appreciation for women and men who spend their time as church volunteers helping pre-schoolers and children know about Jesus. Casey's choir leader happened to be the one who was used of the Lord to share about Jesus at just the time when Casey was ready to respond. What a wonderful experience for the leader!

Thank you, God, for church leaders everywhere in this state who invest themselves in the lives of our little children.

North Regional Event to be held May 18

"My Life In His Hands" is the theme for the North Regional Event to be held at First Baptist Church, Oxford, May 18. The event will begin at 9:00 a.m. and conclude at 3:00 p.m.

The event is planned for Baptist Women and Baptist Young Women and all those who want to participate in a day of spiritual enrichment.

Gwen Williams, a home missionary at a weekday center at Grace Baptist Church, New Orleans, will bring challenging messages in word and music. Bible study will be led by Jewel Merritt, Bible study leader from First Baptist, Jackson, and retired teacher in the gifted program of Jackson Public Schools.

Conferences to be offered include:

My Life In His Hands . . .

As A Parent - Dottie Hudson, Associate Minister of Counseling/Family Ministry, FBC, Jackson

As A Mature Adult - Horace Kerr, Contract Consultant, Discipleship Training, MBCB

As A Woman of the 90's - Pat Ritchie, artist, writer, Baldwin

Pam Booth, WMU Executive Board Member-at-Large from Amory, will lead the theme interpretation. Frances Downs, Area 3 Coordinator, will share her experiences in volunteer missions.

Lunch will be served at the church for a cost of \$5.50. Send meal reservations by May 13, to: Frances Downs, Rt. 1, Box 167, Shaw 38773, or Kay Hodge, 3480 Amy Drive, Nesbit 38651.

For a day of spiritual renewal—recharging—redirection—make plans to be part of the North Regional Event.



Merritt



Kerr



Hudson



Williams



Ritchie

Don't Miss The ASSOCIATIONAL WMU OFFICERS TRAINING RETREAT CAMP GARAYWA, CLINTON

CALLED & ACCOUNTABLE

April 25-26

OR

April 26-27

(Choose One)

PROGRAM GUESTS:

- James Richardson, pastor, FBC, Madison
- Randall Millwood, Minister of Education, Broadmoor BC, Jackson
- Frances Raley, missionary to Taiwan, Jackson

•Gretchen Davis, MK from Ghana, music teacher, Jackson

CONFERENCE LEADERS:

- Pam Keith, Corinth, Acteens
- Jo Ingram, Meadville, Acteens
- Susan Beckett, Calhoun City, Mission Friends
- Cindy Stevens, Pelahatchie, BYW
- State WMU Staff

SPECIAL FEATURES:

- WMU Fair
- Baptist Book Store
- Associational WMU Officer Notebooks

Cost: \$21.00 per person
(Registration begins at 4:00 pm, supper at 5:30 pm; retreats conclude after lunch on second day.)

To register, send name of association, with list of names and office held, along with \$21 per person, to: WMU Office, Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205.

VOLUNTEER REPORT...

ZIMBABWE

We were not able to send a full team of eight volunteers, but two of our women are there right now! Pray for them as they minister to our MKs and missionaries.

NEW CHOCTAW ASSOCIATION

Response to this June 17-21 project has been great! Pray for these women as they do Backyard Bible Clubs, VBS, sewing, cooking, and music classes.

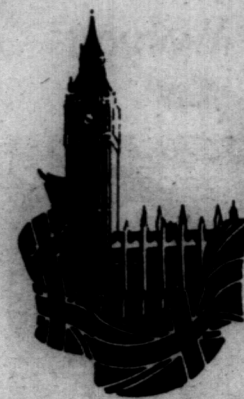
CHICAGO

We still need several volunteers for this project scheduled for July 27-August 3. Approximate cost is \$450. The assignment will be to do Backyard Bible Clubs and other projects designed by the staff at Uptown Baptist Church.

EAST ST. LOUIS

This project is quickly filling up! The dates are August 14-17, and the cost will be approximately \$225. The assignment is to work in a Baptist Center distributing clothing and school supplies.

For more information on any of these projects, call Monica Keathley at 968-3800.



Tour William Carey's England

To commemorate the 200th anniversary of the founding of the Baptist Missionary Society, WMU, SBC, will sponsor a series of tours to England during 1991-92. These are 10-day tours personally led by a WMU, SBC, Tour Director, and they will include specially designed curriculum for each tour member.

The price of the tour ranges from \$1799 to \$2199 depending on the season.

For a detailed itinerary and a list of tour dates, contact the Mississippi WMU Department at 968-3800.



Tour to New England Highlights Baptist History and Missions

WMU, SBC, is organizing nine tours of New England in 1991. These 8-day tours will visit historical Baptist sites as well as current Baptist mission points. Of special interest to Mississippians is the fact that there are 20 places reserved for folks from Mississippi on the September 28-October 4 tour.

The price of the tour will be \$859 from Boston with the cost of getting to Boston being an added expense. Meals not listed in the tour package are also at the tour member's expense.

For additional information, write or call the Mississippi WMU Department for a brochure.



**WMU
CONFERENCE**
Ridgecrest Baptist
Conference Center
June 22-28, 1991

WMU Special Day - 1991

Theme: Beyond Our Dreams

Edwina Robinson WMU Special Day Offering Goal: \$63,000

ALLOCATIONS

Seminary Scholarships	\$6,000
Overseas Scholarships	1,500
Mississippi Missionary Appointees	5,000
MK Christmas Love Gifts	3,000
Aged Ministers/Widows	4,000

WMU NEW WORK AREAS

Nevada	1,000
Montana Fellowship	1,000
Dakotas Fellowship	1,000
Colorado	1,000
Illinois	1,000

MISSISSIPPI SEAMEN'S CENTERS

Pascagoula (2)	1,800
Gulfport	900
Professional Staff Training	1,000
Camp Garaywa	15,000
Area Work	12,800
Promotional Materials	7,000
	\$63,000

"Thanks" for WMU Special Day Offering

Because women and girls gave so generously to Edwina Robinson WMU Special Day last year, the offering exceeded the goal. One of the "extras" the offering provided is 20 copies of the book, **Peace With God**, for inmates at the Rankin County Correctional Facility.

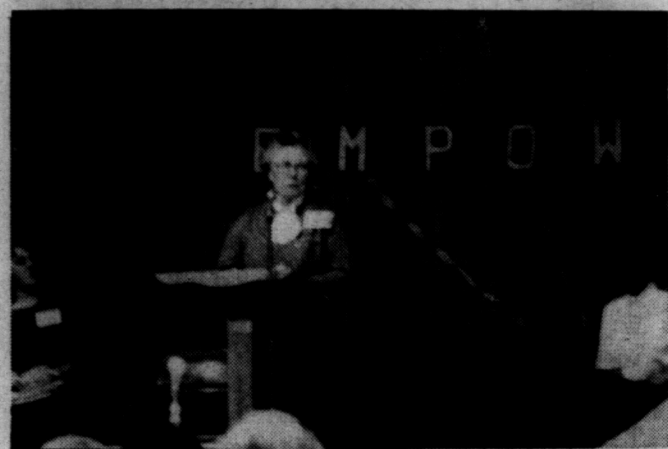
This "thank you" letter came from Wendy Hatcher, Chaplain at the facility:

"The **Peace With God** books arrived. We are so thankful to the Lord for providing what I know will be a blessing to many of our inmates.

"I really appreciate your concern for us and willingness always to assist in the ministry to 'those in prison.' I try to be alert to the leading of the Holy Spirit in regard to the needs here and I really believe that particular book will be used by Him to change many lives.

"Thank you all so much. The Lord bless you as you serve Him."

Report from Baptist Women Prayer Retreat



A total of 140 women from 52 churches and 24 associations gathered at Camp Garaywa February 15-16 for a Prayer Retreat. Theme for the retreat was Empowered. Frances Raley (above), furloughing missionary to Taiwan, led the group in Bible study.

"Thank You" from New Choctaw Director of Missions

Rev. Lee Bacon has written *alongside* to tell us of the bountiful response Mississippi Baptists made to a request for used clothing in the 1990 State Missions material. "The New Choctaw Baptist Association cannot express ourselves enough for the help you have rendered to our clothing needs for Choctaw and other people who use the clothing bank. We have had more than 85 churches to assist us in clothing needs throughout the state of Mississippi. We have been unable to keep up with the THANK YOU NOTES. It would be appreciated if you would place a word of appreciation in *alongside* to express our great thanks."

MISSIONS SPECIAL

Acteens, Pioneers, High School Baptist Young Men

Saturday, May 4

10:00 A.M.—2:00 P.M.
North Oxford Baptist Church

Special Guests:

DOTTIE WILLIAMSON
Church Planter, Mississippi
STEVE AND VIDONIA SMITH
Missionaries to Argentina

MISSION ACTIVITIES!!!
MISSION DISPLAYS!!!
FUN AND FELLOWSHIP!!!



•Bring a Sack Lunch
•Drinks will be provided

For Reservations contact
WMU or Brotherhood
Dept. at 968-3800

A Look Ahead

MAY

- 4 Acteens/Baptist High School Young Men Missions Special, North Oxford Baptist Church, Oxford, 10 a.m.-3 p.m.
- 6 WMU Special Day and Edwina Robinson WMU Special Day Offering
- 18 Baptist Women/Baptist Young Women North Regional Meeting, First Baptist Church, Oxford, 9 a.m.-3 p.m.

JUNE

- 2-3 WMU Annual Meeting, SBC, Atlanta, GA
- 3-7 GA Camp, Garaywa. Registration begins Monday, 10 a.m., camp concludes Friday, 12:30.
- 7-8 Acteens Leaders Weekend, Garaywa, Friday, 5:30 p.m.-Saturday, 3:30 p.m.
- 10-14 GA Camp, Garaywa
- 10-14 GA Camp, Central Hills. Registration begins Monday, 10 a.m., camp concludes Friday, 12:30.
- 17-21 GA Camp, Garaywa
- 21-22 1st and 2nd Grade GA Mother/Daughter Overnight, Garaywa, Friday, 4 p.m.-Saturday, 2 p.m.
- 24-28 GA Camp, Garaywa

JULY

- 1-3 GA Mini-camp, Garaywa. Registration begins Monday, 10 a.m., camp concludes Wednesday 11:30 a.m.
- 1-5 Acteens Camp, Central Hills. Registration begins Monday, 10 a.m., camp concludes Friday, 12:30.
- 8-12 GA Camp, Garaywa
- 15-19 GA Camp, Garaywa
- 22-26 GA Camp, Garaywa
- 29-Aug. 2 GA Camp, Garaywa



WMU
CONFERENCE
Glorieta Baptist
Conference Center
July 13-19, 1991



1991 Choosing to . . .

Registration has begun; staffers have been selected; schedules and Bible studies are being printed; menus are being planned and on and on

Yes! The 1991 camping season is just around the corner.

GA Camp at Garaywa

June 3-7
June 10-14
June 17-21
June 21-22 - 1st & 2nd
grade GAs and mothers
June 24-28
July 1-3 - mini-camp
July 8-12
July 15-19
July 22-26
July 29-Aug. 2

Acteens Leaders

Weekend at

Garaywa

June 7-8

GA Camp at

Central Hills

June 10-14



Acteens Camp at

Central Hills

July 1-5

Special People R Involved N Girls in Action

SPRING is the theme for the Mother/Daughter Overnight for 3rd and 4th graders and their mothers (or substitute moms) at Camp Garaywa, Clinton, April 19-20. This overnight is a time for GAs and their moms to learn about the summer camping program. A

time of meeting new friends, learning about missions, having fun, and meeting missionaries is planned.

Harry and Frances Raley, missions to Taiwan, will be sharing about their years in East Asia.

Cost of the Overnight is \$21 per person, which includes lodging, three meals, and insurance.

Participants will need to bring sheets or sleeping bags, towels, washcloths, casual clothes, Bible and April Discovery magazine.

Cabin assignments will be made between 4:00 and 6:00 on Friday. The event concludes with lunch on Saturday.

To register, send name of church, church address, name of GAs and their mothers, along with \$21 per person, to: WMU Office, Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205.

GA DAY AT GARAYWA

April 20

10 a.m.—2:30 p.m.

All ages GAs and leaders are invited to join 3rd and 4th grade GAs for an exciting time of missions learning on Saturday, April 20, at Camp Garaywa, Clinton. Activities begin at 10 a.m. and conclude at 3 p.m. Cost is \$2 per person. Bring a sack lunch. Drinks will be provided.

To register: send form below along with \$2 per person to: WMU, Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205.

GA Day at Garaywa Registration	
church name:	_____
Association	_____
No. of GAs	_____ No. of Adults
Amount Enclosed	_____
Contact Person	_____
Address	_____

alongside
published by Mississippi WMU Department

Marjean Pattersonexecutive director-treasurer
Monica KeathleyWMU consultant
Ashley McCalebBaptist Women consultant
Jan CossittBYW/Acteens consultant
Patricia SimmonsGA/MF consultant
Fran Pickettcamp manager
Sandy Blacksecretary
Brenda Quattlebaumsecretary
Betty Smitheditor

PLAN AHEAD
FOR TRAINING

WMU Church Leadership Training

August 12-17

Camp Garaywa, Clinton

Night Sessions: August 12 and 13 -
6:30-9 p.m.

Day Sessions: August 13-17 - 9:30 a.m.-
2:30 p.m.

NOTE: NO day session on Monday, August 12

Cost: \$4.50 per person (lunch and insurance). No
reservations necessary.

CHOOSE A DAY SESSION OR A NIGHT
SESSION. There will be conferences for
leaders of Mission Friends, Girls in Action,
Acteens, officers of Baptist Women and
Baptist Young Women, and general WMU of-
ficers. **COME PREPARE FOR LEADER-
SHIP.**

DAY CONFERENCE HIGHLIGHTS:

Preview of 1991 FOREIGN MISSION
SERIES by Jarene Robinson, Tulsa,
Oklahoma

ADVANCED LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

by Dell Scoper, Laurel

SPECIAL TRACK: 15-HOUR LITERACY WORKSHOP

by Juanita Schilling, Mendenhall

Thursday, August 15, 9:30 a.m.-4 p.m.;
6-9 p.m.

Friday, August 16, 9:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m.

(by pre-registration only - deadline August 1.)

Cost: \$50 (includes registration fee, books, meals,
lodging)

ADDITIONAL WMU CHURCH LEADER- SHIP TRAINING CONFERENCES

August 19

Hattiesburg, First Baptist Church, 6:30-9 p.m.

Tupelo, First Baptist Church, 6:30-9 p.m.

August 20

Hattiesburg, First Baptist Church, 9:30 a.m.-

2:30 p.m.

Tupelo, First Baptist Church, 9:30 a.m.-

2:30 p.m.

Lunch: Please bring a sack lunch -
beverage available



Faces and places

by Anne Washburn McWilliams



Laughter can lead to longer life

Laughing a lot can lead to living a longer life! Aunt Kate McWilliams, 99 going on 100, is proof.

Last Halloween, she showed that no kid-at-heart is ever too old to trick or treat. Before then, she had fallen and cracked a hip bone, so nurses from S. Miss. Home Health began to visit and help care for her. The one who stopped by on Oct. 31 was greeted by Aunt Kate, wearing a Halloween mask.

Mother of 10, grandmother of 25, great-grandmother of 59, and great-great-grandmother of eight, she's never without someone to visit or stay with her day or night, at her little house near Corinth Church, Simpson County.

One time, 15 years or so ago, I went to see her one afternoon and found her in the barn, digging a hole in the dirt. "What in the world are you doing?" I asked.

"I'm digging up my money," she said. "This is my bank." I believed her, and she never set me straight. But after I worried about it for a while, one of her sons said, "Ah, Mama was just joking!"

At the turn of the century, she was a girl of 9. Since her mother owned no stove, the Fortenberry family's cooking was done on the coals in the fireplace. One of her jobs was to refill the kettle that hung on a hook over the fire. "I milked cows, too," she remembers, "and churned and made butter." When she was a little older, she worked in the fields, too. "I did everything except plow the oxen."

In 70 years of marriage, she had plenty of practice in cooking, and I can testify that she's good at it. I've never known a McWilliams who didn't like to hunt or fish, so coons and 'possums and deer and white perch



Kate McWilliams

and bream most always took the place of honor on her groaning table.

In March of 1914, during her 22nd year, she married William McWilliams, the "boy next door." Her sister, Belle, had married William's brother, Miles (they were my mother and father-in-law; I guess W.D. was named for his Uncle William). Kate and William had seven boys and three girls; Belle and Miles had seven girls and three boys. In each family, two died in early childhood.

Though her cheeks are creased with laughter lines, Aunt Kate has known her share of sorrows. Once I wrote a column about her saddest Christmas

Eve, the night in 1923 when her 3-year-old son died. In the morning, he begged for a slice of the chocolate cake she was icing, but she told him, "Tomorrow." That afternoon, he became ill and that night he died. The doctor said his symptoms were similar to those of cholera. Next day, she found that the cake had been pinched, and little chocolate fingerprints left on the tablecloth.

It was not until after their marriage that both she and Uncle William made public professions of faith in Christ. They were two of the 5,156 persons baptized by the renowned Dan Moulder, Smith County preacher who served as pastor of 42 churches in his lifetime (16 of them he organized) and was known as the "bishop of five counties." (This has nothing to do with Aunt Kate, but Dan Moulder's newest descendant and namesake is a great-grandson, Daniel Hudson Taylor, born Feb. 20 to Mr. and Mrs. Robert Taylor. His father is Moulder's grandson. Both parents are lawyers who live in Wiggins.)

Uncle William died in 1984, at 94, the year they celebrated their 70th anniversary. He is buried at Corinth Church, where she is the oldest member. Minutes before he died he sang "Amazing Grace." Aunt Kate likes that hymn, too, and "Precious Memories."

"I have always tried to live a life that would be pleasing to the Lord," she told me. "He has blessed me."

Her tight hugs and her freely shared funnybone have warmed many a heart. Including mine. "Come back soon!" she called out as W.D. and I left her house one day. Her eyes twinkled. "Don't wait for a funeral to come back to see me!"

Minister's wife encourages healing among victims of forced termination

NASHVILLE (BP) — They stand in long lines at book fairs and ministers' wives conferences, just for a chance to share their story with Myra Marshall.

Others are too embarrassed or proud to talk about their family's problem in public, so they phone or write a letter. But all of these women have something in common — they need to tell their story of how a forced termination impacted their lives.

"We talk together and we cry," said Marshall, a manuscript assistant in the Sunday School preschool-children's department at the Sunday School Board. "Most of these women just want someone to listen to them. I let them know that it is all right to grieve. They have to go through that process before they can work through their hurt."

Marshall knows firsthand the painful effects of a forced termination. Her world shattered in 1980 when her husband, Frank, announced that he was resigning from his position as minister of music. A prospective pastor coming to the church "in view of a call" had asked that he be allowed to name his own staff. The chairman of the church's governing body then approached Marshall and demanded his resignation.

"I was totally devastated," Marshall recalled. "I had no warning, and

things like that are just like a death. It doesn't really dawn on you at the time what is happening."

Although her husband resigned, "it wasn't a choice," Marshall explained. "We were definitely terminated. It was just like being fired."

The termination took its toll on the Marshall family, especially Myra. Pent-up anger, frustration, and bitterness led to bouts with depression and a dependency on drugs initially prescribed to get her through seemingly endless sleepless nights. There were family problems, stress on her marriage and her relationship with her two children. Several friendships made at the church also were severed.

Her condition deteriorated to the point where her daughter found Myra trying to make a telephone call on a desk calculator. Finally, she found the courage to ask for help.

She found it from several sources, an important one being her brother, Dan McGee, a medical psychologist based in Arlington, Texas. A licensed marriage and family therapist, McGee is certified in pain management and recognized for his work in stress management.

"I just insisted that she get some professional help," McGee remembered. She complied by seeking out a counselor at the Sunday School Board

and flying to Texas for "marathon therapy" with another psychologist at her brother's firm, Metro-McGee.

Recovery was a slow process for Marshall, and in some respect, is still ongoing.

"It took me six years to stop wanting to fight back," she said.

Part of Marshall's "therapy" was co-authoring a book about her experience. *Beyond Termination*, described as "a spouse's story of pain and healing," was published in 1990 by Broadman Press.

Marshall said she has learned that her relationship with God "does not depend on any one church. You can mistake church activity for spiritual depth and growth in your relationship with God. I still love the church and I would never leave it. But God loves us as individuals, not as a staff member's wife or a staff member's child."

"I knew I was okay when I could go to chapel at the Sunday School Board without crying," Marshall said. "But my brother told me once not to ever let anybody tell me that things are the same again. They aren't. Something is taken from you."

"My pastor told me he sees me practicing 'pain management.' I've learned that those waves of pain will come, but they will also pass."

Thursday, April 11, 1991

BAPTIST RECORD PAGE 7

Prayers in the marketplace

By Farno L. Green

A New Testament promise that we should claim more often was stated by John: "This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us" (1 John 5:14 NIV).

Do you ever need resolution of delicate situations in family, among friends or in your work (market) place? If so, why not claim the promise that John stated for us as Christians?

Frank was a U.S. Air Force pilot flying F-4 reconnaissance fighters and F-4 fighters. Now in mid-thirties, he is an engineering leader in a major aircraft company designing future aircraft. Recently a young woman in his engineering section had a birthday. A boss in the organization made a presentation with some words that were embarrassing to her and to Christians in the group. Frank could not be silent. He had a duty to preserve a congenial work environment for the employee and to protect his boss from

a potential sexual harassment charge. What would you say to your boss in such a situation?

That evening Frank prayed for guidance. The next day he had conversation with his boss, but the time did not seem right to discuss the matter. He prayed again and decided to write down his thoughts even though he had been in many critical military and engineering meetings where ad-libbed comments were necessary and successful.

The next day, Frank's boss called him in for a project update. Frank prayed for resolution of the delicate matter. After project discussion, the boss surprised Frank by saying, "I was out of line and want to apologize to you, the group, and to the employees," Frank handed him the written words. The boss said that Frank was right on target. Frank's prayers had been heard.

Do we ask God's guidance on everyday problems and contacts? We are told that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us. His answers can bless others and us when we ask in the name of Christ.

Green lives at Ruth; he is deacon and Sunday School director at Shady Grove Church, Lincoln County.

NATURALS will give concert in Clinton April 16 at 8:15

With audiences totaling over 20,000 since September, and with more engagements booked through mid-May, the Mississippi College NATURALS will pause from their hectic tour schedule to present a free concert, "Naturally Spectacular," for the public at 8:15 p.m. on April 16, at Swor Auditorium, Mississippi College.

These young people come from all over Mississippi and three other states: Texas, Alabama, and Florida. They are under direction of Eva Hart, director, and Robbie Lloyd Bell, choreographer/producer. Mrs. Hart is also music assistant/pianist at First Church, Jackson. She and Mrs. Bell, also a member of First, Jackson, have worked together for over 17 years, to train young people in the performing arts.

"THE NATURALS are the promotional arm of Mississippi College," said Mrs. Hart. "They strive to portray not only a positive image of MC, but a positive image of the youth at our state as well."

They are students whose majors are concentrated in pre-med, religion, business, and the liberal arts. Many of them work as church youth direc-

tors, ministers of music, pianists, and in other capacities in area churches.

"The members must maintain a Christian attitude in all aspects of their lives, not only with THE NATURALS," stated Mrs. Hart. "They work hard to be the very best in what they do, in addition to keeping their grades above the standards set for participation by the college."

Since September, 1989, THE NATURALS have been the official touring representatives for the Mississippi Economic Council's "Look Around Mississippi" Campaign. This year alone, they have traveled in excess of 20,000 miles, singing for Chamber of Commerce banquets, civic clubs, state conventions, schools, and churches.

The April 16 concert will open with a "razzle-dazzle Roaring Twenties" package, and will conclude with a patriotic tribute to the men and women of Operation Desert Storm — an action-packed medley entitled "Freedom Forever."

The concert will be geared toward family entertainment and the public is invited.



The Naturals.

Thursday, April 11, 1991

Staff changes

New Hope Church, Foxworth, has called Kent Campbell as pastor, effective March 13. A native of East Fork, he received his education at Mississippi College and New Orleans Seminary. His previous place of service was Calvary Church, Greenwood.

New Hope Church, Monticello, has called Clifford E. Allred of New Orleans as minister of music, effective March 10. A native of Pinson, Ala., he received his BS degree at Troy State University, Troy, Ala., and is now attending New Orleans Seminary. His previous place of service was Salem Church, Brundidge, Ala. Robert Paul Jr. is pastor.

Pearl Valley Church, Wesson, has called Gary Davis as pastor, effective March 24. He is a native of Brookhaven. He moved from Flowers Landing Church, Newellton, La.

Popps Ferry Church, Biloxi, has called John Landrum as pastor, effective March 10. A native of Grenada, he received his education at Mississippi College and New Orleans Seminary. His previous place of service was minister to singles and seniors at Pass Road Church, Gulfport.

Bogue Chitto Church, Lincoln Association, has called Keith Wallace as pastor. He will graduate from New Orleans Seminary in May.

Jerry Weber has accepted the call of Chatham Church, in Chatham, Ill., as minister of education and youth. His new address is 1500 East Walnut, Chatham, IL 62629.

Names in the news

Ellen Holden of Granbury, Texas has been named recipient of the Suzanne Nobles Memorial Scholarship at Mississippi College for 1991.



Holden

A freshman English major, she attends Parkway Church, Jackson. She has been selected for overseas study next year. The scholarship is presented to the most outstanding young woman of the freshman class, and is given on the basis of scholarship, leadership, ability, Christian character, and promise of future success. Holden is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Glen.

Brian Lowe of Winona has been named recipient of the T. M. Hederman III Memorial Scholarship at Mississippi College for 1991.



Lowe

A freshman music major, Lowe is son of Mr. and Mrs. James Pope. The award is presented to the most outstanding freshman young man. It is given on the basis of scholarship aptitude, leadership, Christian character, and promise of future success.

Preview day and alumni reception to be held at Clarke College

Clarke College will have a special preview day and alumni reception on April 20. Reception for alumni will begin at 9:30 a.m. in the cafeteria. Registration for prospective students will also begin at 9:30 a.m. on the patio between Lott Fine Arts Building and Sanders Memorial Library. The

Clarke College Singers will present a program of music in Lott Fine Arts Building Auditorium at 10:30 a.m. Lunch will be served to prospective students. There will be a small charge for alumni lunches. Reservations for lunch can be made by calling 683-2061 by April 17.

Former minister, Carl Kosanke, dies in Colorado

Carl A. Kosanke, former Baptist minister, died on March 16 in Boulder, Colo., following a long illness. Kosanke had served as minister of music and religious education at churches in Oklahoma, Mississippi, North Carolina, and Tennessee before retiring to Colorado in 1983.

Kosanke was born in Wichita Falls, Texas, in 1905, and grew up near Cordell, Okla. He was a graduate of Oklahoma Baptist University and Southwestern Seminary, where he was a member of the first class to receive degrees in religious education.

In Mississippi, Kosanke was minister of religious education and music at the First churches of Brookhaven and Hattiesburg, and at Calvary, Jackson.

Kosanke married a Mississippi native, the former Virginia Mae Loftin, in 1930. Mrs. Kosanke often served with him as church organist, and taught piano. She predeceased him in 1985. Three children survive: Karolyn Wrightson of Hastings-on-Hudson, New York; Dorothy Elder, Greeley, Colo.; and Carl Raymond Kosanke, Ft. Lauderdale, Florida.

The Winters School of Music of William Carey College will present Leonard Day, native of Canton, in a voice recital on April 16 at 8 p.m. The performance will be in Smith Auditorium on campus. Day, a tenor, artist-in-residence at Carey, completed the master of music degree at Eastman School of Music after receiving his undergraduate training at Carey. Recently he made his professional debut with the Hawaii Opera Theatre, performing the role of Don Basilio in "The Marriage of Figaro." The public is invited.

Will Berger, Ripley, will be presenting organ recitals at three of the historic churches in Holly Springs during the 53rd Annual Pilgrimage, April 26-28. The recitals will be performed three times a day during the pilgrimage.

Florence and Wayne Frederick left Mar. 25 for France to begin three to six months of language review at Tours, France. After their studies they will be assigned to a French city to either pastor an existing church or plant a new one. Their address during language school will be 133 rue Lakanal, 3700 Tours, France. The Frederick's spent 16 years as missionaries to the French speaking island of Guadeloupe. From Feb. 1986-Dec. 1990 they pastored at Jericho Church, Baldwin. They were reappointed December 12 to France by the Foreign Mission Board.

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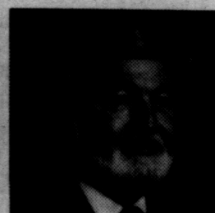
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PEARL
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Kent Johnson
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Just for the Record



Woodville Church, Mississippi Association, recently held its annual Royal Ambassador award ceremony. Woodville Church has over 40 young men and boys in RA ministry. Counselors for the group are Mark McGraw, Gene Rutkowski, and Greg McKey.

First Church, Mathiston, on March 11 held an area wide youth lock-in, entitled "Trophy Triumph II," at the family life building with over 300 in attendance. There were about 50 decisions made, with at least eight saved. Higdon Herrington is pastor.

Clear Branch Church, Lincoln Association, has recently completed seven new Sunday School rooms. The space above the gym was used for these rooms and the men of the church provided the labor. Terry Brown is pastor.

The Singles Ministry of Pinelake Church, Brandon, will host a seminar, entitled "Building Successful Relationships," beginning April 13 at 1:30 p.m. There will be follow-up sessions each Wednesday at 7 p.m., starting April 17 and continuing through May 22. Professional counselors will address specific topics each week. The cost to pre-register is \$10 and at the door is \$15. Call 992-2630 for more information.

No needle is sharp at both ends. — Chinese Proverbs

Revival dates

Iuka Church (Tishomingo): April 14-17; Sunday, 11 a.m.; 10:30 a.m., Mon.-Wed.; 7 nightly; James Bryant, First Church, Taylorsville, evangelist; Mike Crook, First Church, Corinth, music; Julian West, pastor.

Mount Zion (Rankin): April 14-17; Sunday, 11 a.m., followed with dinner on the grounds and 1 p.m. service; no night services; weeknight services, 7:30 p.m.; Jim Love, pastor, First Church, Basile, La., evangelist; Richard and Pam Sparks, Puckett Church, music; Tommy Bufkin, pastor.

Moselle Memorial Church, Moselle: April 7-12; 7 p.m. nightly; Walton Douglas, pastor, Bethlehem Church (Jones) evangelist; Michael Street, pastor.

Lynn Ray Road Church, Petal: April 14-17; services, 7 p.m. each night; Bruce McNeely, Springfield, Mo., guest evangelist; Charles Walker, music; lunch will be served following Sunday morning worship service.

Williamsville Church, Kosciusko (Attala): April 14-17; services, Sunday, 11 a.m., noon meal, and 7 p.m.; Roy Myers, pastor, Rocky Creek Church, Lucedale, evangelist; Barry Worrell, Emmanuel Church, Grenada, music; Tom McCurley, pastor.

Dublin Church, Prentiss: April 14-19; 7 nightly; Dennis Allen, pastor, Harrisville Church, evangelist; W. J. Nelson, Monticello, music evangelist; Robert L. Dunn, pastor.

East Moss Point Church (Jackson): April 14-19; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon.-Fri., 7 p.m.; Harrell Cushing, Stewardship Department, Alabama Baptist Convention, evangelist; George Beck, Ingalls Avenue Church, Pascagoula, music; Harold A. Anderson, pastor.

Pleasant Ridge Church, Dumas: April 14-19; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon.-Fri., 10:30 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Tom McLaughlin, Indianola, Baptist Student Union director, Mississippi Delta Community College, evangelist; Shelley and Irene Johnston, Jackson, members of Davis Road Church, Terry, music; David Blackwell, pastor.

Colonial Heights Church, Jackson: April 14-17; Sunday services, 9:30 a.m., 10:45 a.m., and 6:30 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., lunch served at 11:30 a.m., services, 12:15-12:45 p.m. and 7 p.m.; David Miller, a native of Stringer in Jasper County but now lives in Heber Springs, Ark., stricken with Perineal Muscular Atrophy, a crippling muscle disease, evangelist; Ray Jones, minister of worship and world missions at Alamo City Church, San Antonio, Texas, music; Bill Davidson, associate pastor.

First Church, Mathiston: April 14-18; Bill Irwin, director of missions for Royal Gorge Association in Colorado, evangelist; Hiram Eaves, minister of music, Calvary Church, Laurel, music; Higdon Herrington, pastor.

Easthaven Church, Richland (Rankin): April 12-14; services, Friday and Saturday, 7 p.m.; Sunday services, 7 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Tony Henry, (Leake) speaker; Charlene Welch, Easthaven Church, music; Paul Jordan, pastor.

New Ireland Church, Union (Newton): April 14-17; Sun.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Eddie Ruddick, Bethel Church, Newton, evangelist; Randy Cutchens, First Church, Newton, music; Donald R. Silkwood, pastor.

Grandview Church (Rankin): April 14-17; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Gene Erwin, pastor, Mt. Moriah Church, Bogue Chitto, evangelist; Joe Wood, Jackson, music; Wade Chappell, pastor.

Concord Church, Ackerman (Choctaw): April 14-17; Sunday, 11 a.m.; 7 p.m. nightly; Tim Atkinson, Mountain View Church, LaVeta, Colorado, evangelist; Lamar Blaine, Concord Church, music; Ralph Cain, pastor.

East Heights Church, Tupelo: April 14-17; services, 7 p.m.; Steve F. Bain, pastor, East Heights Church, evangelist; Barry Tice, East Heights Church, music.

Barefoot Springs Church, Pelahatchie: April 14-17; Sunday, 11 a.m., dinner on the grounds, and afternoon service; no Sunday night service; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Ricky Kennedy, evangelist; Gene Rester, music; Grant McElveen, pastor.

GA Day will be held at Garaywa

GAs and leaders who missed GA Day at Central Hills are invited to attend GA Day at Garaywa, April 20, 10 a.m.-2:30 p.m. Activities will include games, missions learning activities, face painting, meeting missionaries, making friends with GAs from across the state.

Participants will need to bring a sack lunch. Drinks will be provided. To register, send name of church, address, number of GAs attending, number of adults attending, and \$2 per person to WMU, Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205.

MC Law School dean announced

J. Richard Hurt has been named dean of the Mississippi College School of Law by President Lewis Nobles and the Board of Trustees. Hurt, MC Law School associate dean and professor of law, will succeed Dean Alton H. Harvey, who is retiring on May 31.

Hurt, Laurel native reared in Cleveland, received a bachelor of arts with honors from Mississippi College, a master of arts and a juris doctor from Baylor University, and a master of laws from Yale University.

In 1980, he began his teaching career as assistant professor at MC School of Law, becoming a full professor in 1988.

Hurt, his wife, the former Jan Jones, and their two daughters are members of Northside Church, Clinton, where he is a deacon.

Homecomings

First Church, Louisville: April 14; Sunday School, 9:30; worship, 10:45, James Fairchild, former pastor, preaching; lunch in fellowship hall at noon; concert at 1:30 p.m., Fairchild sisters.

Southside Church, Greenville: April 21; 9:45 a.m.; covered dish on grounds at noon; afternoon singing with former members and friends, 1:30 p.m.; no night services; Perry Claxton, Greenville, guest speaker; Earl Ezell, pastor.

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Churches adopt Expanded Annuity Plan

The following churches have adopted the Expanded Annuity Plan since those reported in the March 14 issue of the Baptist Record: Gulf Coast: Olivet; Jackson: Ridglea Heights and McClellan Road; Scott: New Liberty; Tallahatchie: Paul; Warren: Goodrum Memorial; and Webster: Mantee.



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**Tuesday, April 30, 1991
9:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.**

**Led by: Darrell Robinson,
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No registration fee

Total Church Life book given to each participant
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"Helping to Bring Mississippi and the World to Jesus"

Thursday, April 11, 1991

Senior adult corner

The Senior Adult Rally in Area 3 will be held at First Church, Greenwood, (not First Church, Greenville, as was previously published), on April 30 from 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

The Senior Adult Glory Choir from Hillcrest Church, Jackson, was guest of the Triple L Club of First Church of Kosciusko at their regular monthly meeting March 28. Tom Larrimore, director, led the choir in the presentation of "America! America!" a musical celebration of our heritage. Sharon Dorman was the pianist and Mrs. Inez Marler was narrator.

A covered dish lunch was served to 104 senior adults.

Warren County Association is having a senior adult rally at First Church, Vickburg, on April 13, from 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Gordon Sansing Sr. will be guest speaker. The program will also include group singing, a guest quartet, and a potluck lunch. Also planned for the Warren Association senior adults is a fall trip to a Chautauqua at Green Lake, Wis., according to Paul T. Lee, senior adult director, Warren Association.

Missionary news

Sam and Ginny Cannata, missionaries to Ethiopia, are on the field (address: P. O. Box 5539, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia). He is a native of Houston, Texas, and she is the former Virginia Currey of Hollandale.

Jones County calls DOM

The Executive Committee of the Jones County Baptist Association has unanimously voted to call T. Allan Nix of Robertsedale, Ala., as director of missions.



Nix

Nix has accepted the call; he and his wife, Linda, and daughters, Laura and Lydia, will be moving to Laurel within the next few months. Allan began serving as director

April 1. He has served as associate director of missions of the Baldwin County Association, Silverhill, Ala., since 1982.

Carmel, Monticello, holds Satanism seminar

A seminar designed to educate the public regarding Satanism and occult-related ritualistic crimes will be held April 14, 2:30 p.m. and 7 p.m. at Carmel Church, Monticello.

The two-hour slide presentation is conducted by Paul Carlin, who holds a doctor of philosophy in contemporary religion. The rise in apparent ritualistic crimes has caused many law enforcement agencies to take a hard look into new avenues of investigations. Satanism and occult activities are appearing in every part of the country. "And the target is our kids," Carlin explains.

It is not recommended that children under the seventh grade attend. Care will be provided for children through 12 years of age.

Conferences for worship leaders will be offered during May

"Reaching People Through Authentic Worship" is the title of a conference for all church and associational worship leaders which will be offered in three Mississippi cities in May.

The day-long meetings are related to the Sunday School Board's "Let's All Go to Church" series, which encourages all phases of church attendance.

Dates and places will be May 20 at First Church, Starkville; May 21 at First Church, Greenwood; and May 23 at First Church, Brookhaven. Time for all three meetings will be 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Topics for the meetings include

Creativity and Purpose in the Elements, Techniques for Improving Congregational Singing, Ideas for Effective Prayer Meetings, Using the Christian Calendar in Worship Planning, and Making Worship Meaningful for Children and Youth.

Leaders for these sessions include James White and Fred Kelly. Both are consultants with the Baptist Sunday School Board, White in church administration, Kelly in church music.

There is no cost for this conference, however, those planning to attend need to pre-register. Write the Church Administration/Pastoral Ministries Department, MBCB, Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205.

Carlos McLeod, Texas evangelism director, dies at 62

DALLAS (BP) — Carlos McLeod, director of the evangelism division of the Baptist General Convention of Texas since 1981, died April 2 in Baylor University Medical Center, Dallas.

Physicians said he died of a rupture of the thoracic aorta, a main blood vessel leading out of the heart.

McLeod, 62, a native of Farmersville, Texas, was president of the 2.5-million-member BGCT from 1979-1981 while he was pastor of First Church, Plainview, Texas.

He is survived by his wife Bonnie of Dallas; three daughters, Mrs. Roddy (Ann) Pearce of Clovis, N.M.; Gale McLeod of Athens, Texas; and Mrs.

Kirk (Amy) Eklund of Dallas; and five grandchildren.

Darrell Robinson of Atlanta, vice president for the Home Mission Board's evangelism section, said, "I rededicated my life in a youth revival that Carlos McLeod preached in West Texas."

"He (McLeod) has always been a pacesetter for evangelism in America, and he has rallied Texas Baptists to the primary task of reaching people for Jesus Christ."

"He was a great soul winner, and his faith and enthusiasm have motivated many Christians to reach people for Jesus," Robinson said.

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NEW AND USED

LETTERS FROM CAREY - Choices, Choices, Choices

Jim Edwards, President Volume 2, No. 1

"...choose you this day whom ye will serve ... as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord." Joshua 24:15

During the fall of 1989 the pages of THE BAPTIST RECORD became our channel of communication to you, our Baptist constituency - our family. Many of you expressed appreciation for the "Letters from Carey" and asked us to start them again. Volume 2 is the beginning of our response.

We have chosen many strategies and much has happened during the past 18 months, including such significant events as reaffirmation of our accreditation by SACS, enrollment gains on our three campuses, academic improvements, and an emphasis on the American work ethic.

CHURCH RELATIONS

Perhaps our most important step has been the choice to actively strengthen ties with Mississippi Baptist

churches, beginning with the appointment of our Denominational Advisory Council co-chaired by Frank Gunn and Judge Charles Pickering. A new position, minister-in-residence, was created and filled with Hardy Denham. During this 18 month period, someone from Carey has participated in a service in every Baptist association in South Mississippi except one.

REGIONAL ACCREDITATION

The 10-year affirmation by Southern Association of Colleges and Schools was, in the words of one administrator, "a miracle". Many miracles made it possible to overcome the 105 recommendations made by SACS in 1989. One miracle was the cooperative spirit of faculty, students, alumni, and trustees who worked together under the leadership of Joe Dale, Andy Carpenter, William Browning, Larry Braidfoot, and John McGraw. Another miracle was the financial assistance from the MBC

under the leadership of Bill Causey, Eddie Hamilton, Bill Stewart, and Ron Kirkland. Someone has said that miracles occur for those who try to make them happen. We chose to try. God made them happen!

STUDENT ENROLLMENT

We are pleased with more students choosing the distinctively Christian education available at Carey. Enrollment has increased in Gulfport, New Orleans, and Hattiesburg. Under the leadership of Bill Payne, the Coast campus has experienced the most dramatic gains - up 50% over 1989-90, and all available apartments are occupied for the first time. Charles McCarter is providing new leadership for our art program on the Coast. Our nursing programs are growing rapidly, both in New Orleans and in Mississippi.

ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE

When students choose to enroll at Carey, they are served by teachers who

emphasize personal growth and learning. New faculty with terminal degrees from major universities have joined the existing dedicated core of professors at Carey. As part of our renewed missions emphasis, we have chosen to establish the Owen and Elizabeth Cooper School of Missions and Biblical Studies. What an appropriate emphasis for a college named for the Father of Modern Missions, and what excellent models are the lives of the Coopers!

We have also chosen to re-establish the Donald and Frances Winters School of Music. Josephine D'Arpa has been chosen as the inaugural holder of the Winters Endowed Chair of Music and continues to provide leadership in the area of church music.

WORK SERVICE

We offer Carey students the choice of an environment that will prepare them for productive lives and develop a value system consistent with Biblical teachings.

Believing that the American work ethic is basic to these teachings, we began a program that has as its purpose to enhance the value of all work. The Work Service Program, directed by Iris Easterling, includes all students who work at Carey. In addition to performing needed tasks on campus, the students develop a sense of pride in their accomplishments. Another lasting value of such a program is the freedom from debt a student can have if he or she has chosen to work to defray costs instead of using government loans.

In many ways, our College has faced the kinds of choices that Joshua was addressing to the children of Israel in Chapter 24, and summarized above in verse 15. We believe those choices will be honored by God if we continue to serve Him, and only Him.

P. S. Next week - choosing what kind of future we want.

Using our gifts to glorify God and help others

By Ruth N. Allen

1 Corinthians 12:4-7, 12-26

Ramsey Pollard related a personal experience when he was pastor of Bellevue Baptist Church in Memphis. A poorly dressed lady of obvious modest means presented herself for membership. She also requested an appointment with the pastor for the next day. Pollard expected her to come by for the usual monetary request. Instead, the lady mentioned the Brotherhood supper, which had been announced for Thursday evening. He explained that the supper was just for men. She replied, "I understand. But now this is my church. I can't sing, and I don't have any money to give. All I can give is myself! Would you let me wash dishes for that meeting, and that way I could feel I was doing something for my church and my Lord?"

She came that night, washed the dishes, and continued to serve — week by week — washing dishes for Jesus! When the other members began to hear what she was doing, the whole



Allen

UNIFORM

church was affected. "Her attitude and example changed the very spirit and raised the level of the whole church! Including the pastor, himself," Pollard said.

Many gifts, one source (12:4-7)

There are many different kinds of gifts which are given at God's discretion. The word Paul uses for "gifts" comes from the word "charis" and means "a gift of grace" or "a favor one receives without merit of his own" (Thayer). God gives gifts as he chooses and bestows the number he desires. Verses 8-11 contain a list of nine gifts God may choose to give his followers. This list is not exhaustive, as others are found in the scriptures. The gifts are many and varied, but they all come from one source, God.

There are different kinds of service. All Christians are expected to serve in some capacity, but not all possess the gift of service. Martha of Bethany and Dorcas of Joppa are two examples of people who gave their lives in service to others. The same Lord who gives variety in gifts dispenses the gift of service.

The same God also assists in working out the best procedures for utilizing our gifts and methods of service. Whatever the gift or method of service, the same Lord gives it all.

Many members, one body (12:12-13)

Paul chooses to compare the church to the body of Christ. His analogy is that while there are many members, there is only one body. Consequently, the welfare of the entire body becomes the Christian's primary concern. One's gifts, service, and methods of operation are all designed and committed to strengthening the body of Christ. Members of the body must be willing to discard their individuality, yield their will, and use their gifts to magnify the body of Christ.

Many functions, one energizer (12:12-26)

Just as there are many gifts and many members, there are functions to be performed for the good of the body. The various members should function to accomplish God's eternal purpose which is "reconciling the world to himself," (2 Corinthians 5:18).

In verse 7 Paul states, "Manifestation is given to every person to profit withal." God has chosen to give each person a manifestation of the Spirit, either with a gift or gifts to glorify his name. Each person who is a disciple of

Jesus has been given at least one gift for us in promoting the kingdom of God. Therefore, today careful attention must be given to what believers are doing with their gifts.

As each member functions in harmony with other members, there is mutual rejoicing because God's name is glorified. Rejoicing comes when members are able to focus on the good of the body rather than the good of the individual. However, it is not always easy to rejoice when another method succeeds. I keenly remember a wise suggestion from a seminary professor who stated, "Rejoice when a brother or sister succeeds, for God may be testing you to see how much success you can handle." It will be a glorious day for the kingdom of God when members rejoice, because individual success contributes to the success of God's kingdom.

God does not expect members of the body of Christ to function without his power. He is the eternal source of all energy and power which is promised to his followers (Acts 1:8). Those of the body of Christ are his instruments, chosen to accomplish his purpose. Are you using your gift or gifts for God? Are you trusting him for his great and mighty power?

Allen of Jackson, is the wife of Judd Allen, pastor of Ogden Church, Bentonla.

Ephesians: the church consists of God's people

By Benny Still

Ephesians 1:1-2; 6:19-24

Have you ever wondered, "Why is there a church? What's its purpose in the 1990's anyway? Is it relevant to the issues confronting us today?" At some time or other, we all probably have asked these questions. They're good ones. They need answering. The unit of study we begin this week will not only give us the answers to these questions, but many more as the book of Ephesians unfolds. During this study we will learn to accept and appreciate God's purpose in the church.



Still

As Christians, we will be forced to examine the kind of Christian life we are living. This will be a help to all of us in seeing where we are in the cycle of the Christian experience: salvation, newness (change) in Christ, and reaching out to build a new humanity. The writer's main purpose in the letter to the Ephesian people was to declare how God's purpose for his people is revealed in Christ and fulfilled in and through the church. Here we go:

That Paul is the writer of this letter is undisputed. On four separate occasions in the letter he identifies himself (1:1, 3:1, 4:1, 6:20). He refers to himself by name twice and two more times as a "prisoner for the Lord" and "an am-

LIFE AND WORK

bassador in chains." Paul seemed to consider his reason for imprisonment an opportunity given by God to write and get the message into the hands of the people. Through his writings he was able to influence many more people than he ever could have done simply by his own preaching. Paul's writing is so believable and practical because he didn't just dawdle with words — he wrote with the authority of Jesus Christ based on his own experience of following God's will for his life. We are told that Peter and John spoke with boldness. Likewise, we are commanded to approach the throne of grace to help us in our time of need based on Jesus' work on our behalf as our high priest (Heb. 4:16). Paul refers to the recipients of the letter as "saints." They were not saints due to some ritualistic canonization; they were saints because they had trusted Jesus as Saviour in the forgiveness of their sins and because they had not only accepted him, but also respected him as their Lord. Simply put, they were ordinary saved folks who were faithful in their service to Jesus Christ (1:1). Paul greets them in his usual style: "grace and peace." Grace signifies God's unmerited favor. Peace means not merely the absence of strife, but also the presence of positive blessing and prosperity in all spiritual matters. This "grace and peace"

greeting also encompassed both the Gentile and Jewish people who might eventually have the privilege of reading the letter.

In the letter to the Ephesians, Paul appealed for them to pray for him in order that: 1. He might be given spiritual freedom to speak effectively the message of salvation in God; and 2. That he might have full courage in spite of the chains and the power of Rome (6:19-20). He seems not only to share his reason for having written the epistle here, but also to express the desire that his example might be motivation enough to spur all Christendom after him to faithfulness.

We often think of Paul, the great apostle of Jesus who faithfully served and gave his life for his faith in Christ. That is appropriate. He did do these things. How often do we observe that Paul could not have done all he did or been as effective as he was if it were not for those who helped him along the way? Maybe we need to spend a little time examining at least one of his helpers. Had it not been for the faithfulness of Paul's friend, Tychicus, we might not have the letter today. Even the great apostle Paul was dependent on someone. Evidently, Tychicus was one in whom Paul had great confidence. He was trusted by Paul. Does anyone trust us or depend on us today? Is our faithfulness evident to those around us? Can we be trusted to give an accurate account of the status quo, or do we seek to promote our own agendas? Are we dependable enough to be EN-couragers

rather than DIS-couragers as we "pass the mantle" of our faith? Our job may be just to pass the word along. Insignificant? Never! Vital? To the max! No job in the kingdom of God is without honor, but integral and necessary (6:21-22).

Paul's desire is that Christians may experience with increasing fullness the reality of peace, love, faith, and grace as they love Jesus Christ with an incorruptible (undying) love (6:23-24). Some might call these last two verses a benediction to a well-written letter — and that would be right, to a point. What about the possibility that herein lies Paul's express purpose for writing the letter in the first place?

In the next few weeks we will be looking at the entire book of Ephesians in great detail. We'll look at the purpose of the church as God's people and be challenged as God's people to live the Christian life in the areas of unity of the Spirit, newness of life, love and action, the building of the Christian home, and becoming strong in the Lord. Be careful as you study the Sunday School lessons in the next few weeks. We all may discover some areas that have been overlooked in our lives that will demand our attention and God's grace. Let's use these lessons to help us redefine our purpose as God's children and get on with the business of his work versus our own agendas!

Grace and peace to you! (1:1)

Still is pastor, Poplar Springs Church, Mendenhall.

David's common sense — not a common characteristic, but a common need

By Jerry Vardaman

II Sam. 3:1-4:12; I Chron. 3:1-4

We often hear it said, "We all need to use common sense." Sadly, "common sense" is not as "common" as we might expect. In various



Vardaman

passages of the OT, we read that David behaved himself wisely (I Sam. 18:5, 14, 15, 30). One lesson stands out clearly when we read of David's behavior and examine it carefully. He possessed great discretion and insight. He was one of those rare individuals who could see the proper course of action to take in most of his decisions. He was not perfect. He would have done much better, for example, if he could have seen the coming tragedy which was to overtake his family due to his adulterous affair with Bathsheba.

David saw the consequences of mistreating the house of Saul; he rejected hatred

Many of David's contemporaries thought that David held a spirit of revenge and hatred towards the house of Saul. This is why the Amalekite brought Saul's armor after his death to David in an earlier chapter (II Sam. 1) and this is why in the verses we are studying today

BIBLE BOOK

David is grieved when he learns of the death of Abner by the hands of David's nephew, Joab. Abner had served in the mixed role of something like a prime minister and general to the house of Saul. He had taken Saul's young surviving son across the Jordan and set up a separate kingdom of that of David's. David was wise enough to realize that he could never win the hearts of the subjects in this rival kingdom if he abused the house of Saul. Constantly, we see David's conducting himself in ways that would appeal to those of the Northern Kingdom. He writes an elegy about Saul and Jonathan when learning of the death of these former leaders of the Northern Kingdom (II Sam. 1:19-27). He slays the Amalekite who killed Saul (II Sam. 1:16). He slays the sons of Rimmon who killed Saul's son, Ishbaal (or, "Ishbosheth" as he is called elsewhere — II Sam. 4:12). He even places a curse on Joab and his house because Joab killed Abner, the prime minister of the northern kingdom (II Sam. 3:28, 29).

One of the curses David placed on the house of Joab might need explanation: "... may the house of Joab never be without one ... who

holds a spindle ..." (II Sam. 3:29). Here David is pronouncing a curse that the men in Joab's house might become weak and effeminate. The work of spinning thread and wool, and working with textiles, was normally done by women.

In short, David's careful manner finally won the hearts of those in the Northern Kingdom (Israel). He united the Jews under one house and they stayed thus united under his son, Solomon, as well. David's grandson, Rehoboam, would have done well to take lessons from David. Rehoboam alienated the northern tribes of Israel by hasty judgment, and after Solomon's death David's kingdom fell into disorder and division.

David as a long-range planner — he saw the need of reclaiming his former wife Michal (II Sam. 3:14-16)

The reason is tied up with David's farsighted perception of what would result if he failed to take Michal back. She was the daughter of Saul, and whoever possessed Michal could have been looked upon as a pretender to the throne of Israel as a successor of Saul. David was not one to leave any stone unturned which might later cost him the throne. He was a political planner of unusual genius. Even if one might question this and say that he simply had good advisors, David still can be credited with the wisdom of

listening to good advice — again a quality which many refuse to acquire!

All of the decisions which we make will, in the end, make or break us. One notes that due to the wise actions of David, as recorded in our lesson today, the tribes of Israel finally acknowledged (II Sam. 5:1) that David was the wise choice to be the leader of all Israel. He even located the capital at Jerusalem — between his tribe of Judah, and the northern tribes. Jerusalem was in the same tribal territory of Benjamin, from which Saul had come (see II Sam. 5:6ff). By David's choice of a capital, he won the hearts of Saul's tribe, as well.

The example of David provides a lesson for all of us to be careful with our words and actions. Even though David had many traits which are to be avoided, we can still learn much from those positive dimensions of his life which increased his prestige and led him to the throne. We throw away an apple core when we eat apples. We throw away banana and orange peelings when we consume those fruits. We must, likewise, overlook many of David's failings and profit from his strong points if we would practice that same kind of common sense which he so richly possessed.

Vardaman is professor of archaeology, Mississippi State University.

CHILDREN'S PAGE

Ways you can take care of soil and water.....

Tell others how they can take care of soil and water.



PLANT a TREE....
WATER, STAKE, and
MULCH it....



SEND USED PAPER,
GLASS, and CANS BACK
to MAKE NEW ONES.

RECYCLE



TURN the WATER OFF when
you brush your teeth.

PICK UP TRASH....keep
your yard CLEAN.



GROW GRASS on
bare soil.



Pen Pal Club



Hi! My name is Neeley Bryant. I am six years old. I go to Peach Creek Baptist Church. My hobbies are: riding my bike, talking to my friends, and playing "dress-up." I would like to have a pen pal.

Love your friend,
Neeley

My address is:
Neeley Bryant
HCR 64, Box 4
Pleasant Grove, MS 38657



Hi!
My name is Heather Mahaffey. I attend Oak Forest Baptist Church. I go to Whitten Junior High School. I am 12 years old. I will be 13 in 5 days. I would hope to get a letter from someone. That would be a great present. Bye.

Your friend in Christ,
Heather Mahaffey
513 Vineland Dr.
Jackson, MS 39212

P.S. I would like a picture and a phone number, please.



Sharing freedom with Ukrainians

Southern Baptist home missionary Juan Kovalchuk (left) shares two different types of freedom with people to whom he ministers — freedom found in Jesus Christ and the freedom found in a democratic nation. Kovalchuk is a catalytic missionary who works with Ukrainians. He is a native Argentinean

and serves as pastor of the Ukrainian Evangelical Baptist Church in Philadelphia, Pa. Visiting the Liberty Bell in Philadelphia with immigrants, Kovalchuk is able to share a special moment. (HMB Photo)

Accreditation still intact, says Southeastern

WAKE FOREST, N.C. — "We are not in any imminent danger of losing our accreditation with either SACS or ATS. We do face the possibility of a period of probation, but even that is not certain." This is the message of Southeastern Seminary's faculty, administration, and Board of Trustees.

Southeastern is presently on warning status with the Southern Association of College and Schools and will have this status reviewed in December. In addition, the Association of Theological Schools, has recently requested separate reports from the faculty, administration, and trustees showing why Southeastern should not be put on probation in June. Southeastern President Lewis A.

Drummond voiced determination to maintain good standing with the seminary's accrediting agencies. "We are going to give ourselves unreservedly to keep accreditation," Drummond said. "We are addressing point by point the concerns of our accrediting agencies."

Noting the commitment of Southeastern's Board of Trustees to keeping the school's accreditation, trustee Chairman Roger Ellsworth said, "We, the trustees, have not given up on accreditation. We are still hopeful of satisfying both SACS and ATS, but prudent planning requires that we take into account every eventuality and prepare for it."

Ellsworth further stated, "I would encourage students not to give up on us at Southeastern. We are going to make progress, and we still offer a quality education."

Russ Bush, vice president for academic affairs, said, "Many students are concerned about the accreditation of Southeastern. Some have even asked whether or not the events at Southeastern will affect future opportunities for service with the Home and Foreign Mission boards. These are reasonable questions, but I have reason to believe that we will be successful in resolving all matters of concern to our accrediting agencies."

Virginia Supreme Court to hear appeal of \$1.56 million ruling

RICHMOND, Va. (BP) — The Virginia Supreme Court has agreed to hear the Foreign Mission Board's appeal of a \$1.56 million judgment against it in a lawsuit brought by a former missionary to Africa.

The court also agreed to hear the former missionary's appeal of negligent breach of contract charges against the board that were dismissed prior to the July 1990 trial of her lawsuit in Richmond Circuit Court.

The former missionary, Diana Sue Wade, originally sought \$141 million from the Foreign Mission Board when she filed suit in behalf of her four children in April 1988 in Virginia, where the board is headquartered. Claims amounting to \$100 million of the \$141 million later were dismissed. At the conclusion of last July's five-day trial, a jury awarded the four children \$1.56 million in damages.

Wade filed her own lawsuit last November seeking an additional \$5 million in damages from the board. The trial in that suit is scheduled to begin Aug. 12 in Richmond Circuit Court.

Wade has contended she and her children, now ages 18 to 23, suffered trauma because board officials learned her then-husband, G. Thomas Wade Jr., was sexually abusing their oldest daughter but did not disclose it to Wade. She contended her husband continued to abuse the daughter as well as two other daughters.

During last year's trial, Foreign Mission Board attorney Lewis T. Booker of Richmond argued board officials who handled the family's case acted reasonably under the circumstances. The administrator who first learned of the abuse testified he told Wade to see a counselor in Africa. At that point, the administrator did not know the extent of the abuse and was assured it had stopped two years before.

The Wades were missionaries in

Kenya and Botswana from 1976 until their departure from Africa in 1984. Wade, 41, and her children now live in Anchorage, Alaska. Wade, now 50, was arrested for sexual abuse of his daughters in 1985 and is serving a 12-year sentence in an Alaskan correctional center.

Legal documents detailing the appeals must be filed with the Virginia Supreme Court by April 15, said Booker.

The case nevertheless could be precedent-setting, he added. "There's never been a case that I'm aware of where an employer has been held responsible to the children of an employee for an employee's misdeeds," he said.

Baptist Record

005-DIM 291
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April 11, 1991

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